LEARNING / G1
What Timor Leste's Filipino first lady has learned

ENTERTAINMENT / E1
18-hour labor leaves Vina exhausted

ENTERTAINMENT / F1
Tagaytay wedding for Judy Ann, Ryan

WORLD / A27
Leftists win Iceland polls amid meltdown

Find out how SM cares for you in good times or in bad. See Pages A12 &13, A25, B2-1, C1 and E1

Japanese in masks: For health or fashion?

TOKYO—EVERYBODY, it seems, is wearing them.

On trains, on the street...at parties. It is impossible to go anywhere in Japan this time of year and not no-

JAPANESE A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, April 27, 2009 ★ 10 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 138 P10 online www.inquirer.net

'Balangay' construction starts for sea adventure

By Erika Sauler

AN AMBITIOUS SEA ADVENTURE TO trace the migration route of the ancestors of Filipinos has started to take shape, with the construction of a pre-colonial boat that would be faithful to shipbuilding methods employed by the Butuan seafaring tribe.

BALANGAY A21

Swine flu alarms world

Mexico City epicenter of epidemic; 81 now dead

MEXICO CITY—A NEW strain of swine flu has this metropolis of 20 million people increasingly fearful as suspected flu deaths grow, and world health officials warn that Mexico City could be at the epicenter of a global epidemic.

Everything from concerts to sports matches and church services were canceled on Sunday to keep people from congregating and spreading the virus in large crowds.

President Felipe Calderon assumed new powers to isolate people infected with a deadly swine flu strain that Mexico's health minister says has killed up to 81 people and likely sickened 1,324 since April 13.

Mexican soldiers and health workers patrolled airports and bus stations, looking for people showing symptoms, which include a fever of more than 100 degrees, body aches, coughing, a sore throat, respiratory congestion and, in some cases, vomiting and diarrhea.

Markets and restaurants were nearly empty. And throngs of Mexicans—some with just a fever—rushed to hospitals.

Mexico appears to have lost valuable days or weeks in detecting the new flu strain, a combination of pig, bird and human viruses that humans

SWINE FLU A21

SKULL SHELVES These human skulls belonging to the Ifugao ancestors are kept in the Opdas Cave in Kabayan, Benguet. Their descendants are reminding tourists visiting the famous burial sites to respect the remains. STORY ON PAGE A20 | NOEL CELIS

Respect mummies, Pulag trekkers told

By Delmar Carina
Inquirer Northern Luzon

KABAYAN, BENGUET—THIS TOWN is again promoting a souvenir trek to Mt. Pulag, with mummies as the main attraction. But local officials have a piece of advice for visitors: Respect the mummies.

Mayor Faustino Aquinas said some mummies and human skeletons in the ancient burial caves had been desecrated because visitors, in their desire to get souvenirs, would sometimes touch or get bones from the burial sites.

"Many mummies have been stolen from caves. The mummies should not be touched. Stealing them or getting their bones could bring bad luck," he said.

The town has prepared tour packages for its Ibaloi-an Festival from April 30 to May 2, in an effort to become a globally competitive tourism destination.

The festival, which will include a trek to the mummies' burial caves, would be capped by the butchering of animals and the holding of the "bendiyan," an indigenous dance rarely performed by the community.

Aquinas said participants in the Pulag trek and visit to the burial sites must be "culturally sensitive"

RESPECT A21

DOH raises alert; no pork imports from US, Mexico

By Norman Bordadora and Riza T. Olchondra

"BESO-BESO"—OR SOCIAL KISSING to Filipinos—is a no-no these days, if you want to stay healthy.

That's the advice yesterday of the Department of Health (DOH) amid the emergence of a new and deadly strain of swine flu in Mexico that has prompted authorities in Europe and Asia to put in place surveillance and preventive measures.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap also ordered a ban on pork imports from the United States and Mexico as a precaution.

Dr. Eric Tayag, head of the National Epidemiology Center, said he expected the swine flu virus to spread faster than the deadly SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, that struck China in early 2003, swept several dozen countries and left nearly 800 people dead.

"Right now, there is still no case of swine flu in the country," Tayag told the Inquirer. Asked how lethal the virus is, he said, "There are those who recover and there are some who unfortunately don't."

He said swine flu is transmitted through droplet infection and physical contact.

"You don't get swine flu from eating pork. We still don't have a case here in the country, but once we have that, we should refrain from shaking hands, kissing cheeks and hugging," Tayag said.

He also called on people to cover

DOH RAISES A21

LOZADA'S ANGELS Whistle-blower Rodolfo Lozada, who is facing arrest, is flanked by (from left) Sisters Susan Ennile, Mary John Mananzan and Estrella Castalone. STORY ON PAGE A4 | NOEL CELIS

Nuns vow never to abandon Lozada

By Juanmarie L. Andrade

THEY PROTECTED HIM FROM POSSIble abduction and assassins when he first came out in public to denounce greed and corruption in government. Now, they vow never to leave his side should he be hauled off to jail.

Yesterday, a group of nuns who have stood steadfastly beside Rodolfo "Jun" Lozada Jr. since last year even found an unexpected ally in deposed President Joseph Estrada, who called on Filipinos to rally behind the embattled whistle-blower.

Ailing former President Corazon Aquino has also expressed her backing for Lozada, urging Filipinos who love the truth to support him.

Speaking at the Ballroom on Thursday forum yesterday, Sr. Mary John Mananzan, cochair of the Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines (AMRSP), pledged that she and other members of her group would not abandon Lozada should he be arrested.

"We will go with him to the Manila City Jail and we will mobilize our allies," Mananzan said, adding that she and others would hold Masses and say prayers outside the detention facility until Lozada shall have been freed.

Seated beside the nun, Lozada reiterated that he would not resist any attempt to arrest him and would not post bail.

"I will stand firm. This remains my battle," he said.

Lozada, a former government executive, faces arrest in connection with a perjury charge filed against him by President Macapagal-Arroyo's former chief of staff, Michael Defensor.

The charge stemmed from Loza-

NUNS VOW A21

SC ruling pits Left, Right in House fight

By Amanda Dorotan

(Concluded from P1/A4)

THE PROCLAMATION BY THE COMmission on Elections of 15 new party-list groups, including retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan's Bantay group, sets the stage for a renewal of the historic conflict between the Left and the ultra Right in the parliamentary arena, shifting the battle from the killing fields of the government's campaign to crush the insurgency by 2010.

ANALYSIS

SCRULING A8

Corregidor relics help ease war victims' pain

By Fe Zamora

CORREGIDOR ISLAND—SEEING THE war relics brought a rush of painful memories of World War II, but 67-year-old Chinese-Filipino businessman Baguio Ang welcomed the feeling.

"War is terrible, but I'm glad I came here," said Ang, who lost his father during the war.

"For years, I avoided watching war movies. I was traumatized by the war," said Gerason Samaduc, 82, who survived a Japanese machine gun attack.

Behind teacher Pilar Francisco, 76, was 8 years old when Japanese forces attacked the Philippines in December 1941. Her family hid in Novaliches, then situated in semi-forested farmlands. There, Francisco heard stories about the cruelty of the Japanese.

Viewing the concrete ruins that used to be the soldiers' barracks and the unexploded weapons preserved in their original state, Samaduc and Francisco were glad that they had finally come face-to-face with the relics from a war that scarred them in their youth.

"War is cruel," Samaduc, who had been traveling around the world with her husband, said. "This memorial

CORREGIDOR A4

ISLAND OF WAR RELICS Philippine and American flags fly behind the ruins of a US movie house on Corregidor Island. EDWIN BACASMAS

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY: ...

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

10 19 25 31 34 48

P33,823,652.40

Solons scramble to stop Palparan

Increasing membership up to House, not Supreme Court, they say

By Dil Cabacungan Jr.

SEVERAL CONGRESSMEN WILL MAKE A LAST-DITCH ATTEMPT to stop the oath-taking of controversial former general Jovito Palparan and other party-list representatives today, claiming the Supreme Court's decision to add 32 new congressmen will breach the 250-member limit set by the Constitution.

Nicolas-Lopez Rep. Fred Erice said that since the 250-member House could only accommodate 12 of the 20 incoming solons, he and several other congressmen will appeal to Speaker Prospero Nograles to just call the oath-taking.

He said the SC should clarify its landmark ruling which increased seven of party-list representation to Congress from 22 to 33.

"I'm waiting for the speaker to file a clarification and I will support it...But speaker can stop [the oath-taking]," Erice said in a text message.

Erice slammed the Supreme Court, saying that as a co-equal branch of government, the court should not have usurped the powers of Congress, in crowning the number of congressmen without amending the Constitutional limit of 250.

Quezon Rep. Lorenzo "Erin" Tañada III agreed with Erice. He said the Speaker could opt not to sit the party-list groups ranked 12th to 32nd.

"Those who will be turned away should be responsible for bringing the issue of the 250-member limit to the SC and not the House because it is not a party to the case," said Tañada.

Nograles had said that while the House could file a motion for reconsideration in the high court, he had no choice but to execute his administrative functions to welcome the new party-list members in the House.

No legal obstacle

"As speaker, I will issue order that I welcome in our roll call of members. The Supreme Court decision is very clear, it is immediately executory and the Comelec has already proclaimed them. There appears no legal obstacle to prevent them from being members of Congress," said Nograles.

Bicol claimed many doubt arise midpoint on the number of seats obtained by some of the party-list groups. Others did not in any way represent marginalized groups.

"I know of one that has no real grassroots organization. Their member-constituency is just a side of a former congressman," said Erice.

To win a seat, a party-list group should garner at least two percent of the votes cast for their national party.

'Before yourselves'

While Nograles expected an today's session, Majorlet urged Bentay party-list Rep. Jovito Palparan and other lawmakers, particularly Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo, to "behave themselves."

"We should all remember that we are all elected representatives of the House of the People. The leadership expects that we all maintain decorum, civility, peace and order, out of harmony in the House."

"All this noise-calling and vicious personality bashing should stop [so] to allow the healing process to begin."

Anti-Palparan

LePlet groups have accused Palparan, a retired Army general, of being behind the murder and disappearance of activists in areas under his military watch. They have launched a "Palparan Should be in Jail, not in Congress" campaign on the Internet (Facebook) and are planning some protest actions this week.

Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes said Palparan's links to human rights violations were cited in the Melo Commission report on the killings and disappearances. The Court of Appeals also summoned Palparan's alleged accomplices in the abduction and torture of two freedom from Bulacan and two University of the Philippines cops.

Pro-Palparan

Palparan has countered that his critics are probably allied with communist insurgents and vowed to step up his anti-communist campaign in the halls of Congress.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines has come out in support of Palparan.

In a statement, AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres said Palparan's swing in Congress was cause and accidents. "The highest court has already spoken," he said, adding that it would be "interesting to monitor" the debates between Palparan and the leftist lawmakers.

"It is our hope that the right their arguments...appropriate measures will be implemented to finally end the decades-old insurgency," the AFP spokesperson said.

Renato Alf chief of staff Director Santiago, currently head of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, also had some good words for Palparan. He (Palparan) could give other congressmen "a run for their money."

"I'm happy for him...and in fairness to him, there are congressmen who do not deserve to be [in Congress]...They are doing nothing," he told the Inquirer in Tagalog.

Continuing investigation

Lawmakers Bayan, representative of the women's group Gabriela, said their group would continue to investigate human rights abuses linked to Palparan.

Bayan told the Inquirer in Bengcet that her group would not question the Supreme Court ruling but that she and others indicted lawmakers could never be expected to be working good relations with the men they refer to as "The Butchers."

With reports from Nikko Dizon, Jocelyn Uy, Jerry A. Gabieta, Jaquiter Fincoya, and Bonifacio Cabayan, Inquirer Northern Luzon

SUBSCRIBE TO INQUIRER FOR ONLY P18 per copy Call 896-6000

Fourth Cha-cha mode a done deal, says solon

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE APPROVAL OF SPEAKER Prospero Nograles' Charter change proposal through a "fourth mode" would be "a mere formality" and the only question is whether the Senate would act on it or not, a congressman said.

Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez said that getting the three-fourths majority in the Lower House to approve Resolution No. 737 allowing foreign investors to acquire land, media and natural resources was "a foregone conclusion," considering that the same number of congressmen had signed on the constituent assembly (Con-ass) mode, House Resolution No. 1109, which seeks to bypass the Senate.

Suarez said that while the plenary debates appeared to be hostile, "at the end of the day, it will come down to a plenary voting on third reading and I think it will get three-fourths vote."

House Majority Leader Arthur Defensor said that of the seven that greeted HR 737 in the first round, several would vote unconditional since it was the plenary vote in the final reading that was critical.

"If they want to shoot the bill down, they should just make sure that it will not get the three-fourths vote," said Defensor.

Nograles has argued that HR 737 could be approved through legislation with three-fourths of the House and Senate voting separately.

His critics, however, argued that the Constitution allows for only three modes, for Cha-cha: a people's initiative, a constitutional convention, where delegates are elected, and a Con-ass.

Senators are not likely to challenge the latest charter amendment bid before the Supreme Court, and even the dean of University of the Philippines College of Law has described such an exercise as "wasteful."

But an advocate for charter amendments said there was consensus waiting in the wings to do just that.

Bagabo Rep. Maurito Domogan, a member of the House committee on constitutional reform, said he was aware of a group that was ready to go to court once the House process of amending the Constitution provided "enough justiciable issues." With a report from Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Militants, not Arroyos, have advantage–Mikey

LUBAO, PAMPANGA—FOUR Arroyos in the House of Representatives should not be an issue, according to Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo.

"The thing is we won [our seats]," he told the Inquirer on Saturday.

With the entry of his aunt, Ms. Lourdes Arroyo, as the representative of the Kasanggga party-list group, four members of the Arroyo family are now serving in the House. The two others are Mikey's younger brother, Camarines Sur Rep. Dindalo "Dato" Arroyo, and their uncle, Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo.

Mikey said the Supreme Court decision ruling to 55 the number of party-list representatives brought advantage not to the Arroyo family but to the ranks of militant lawmakers.

"We don't know where they are coming from. The angle that they're trying to put out is that there are more Arroyos but if you look at the Supreme Court decision, there are about eight opposition militant legislators that have come in," he said.

As for his aunt, the youngest sister of his father, Jose Miguel, Mikey said her success would depend on what legislative agenda she pursues, and how living up to it.

"For militant party-list members [who already adopted this administration as a sit-in society for what's due]? What's next?" he said.

Estrella Ordoñez, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Dentse Cabaza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Typhoon may be brewing

DON'T PUT AWAY those umbrellas; it's going to be another rainy week.

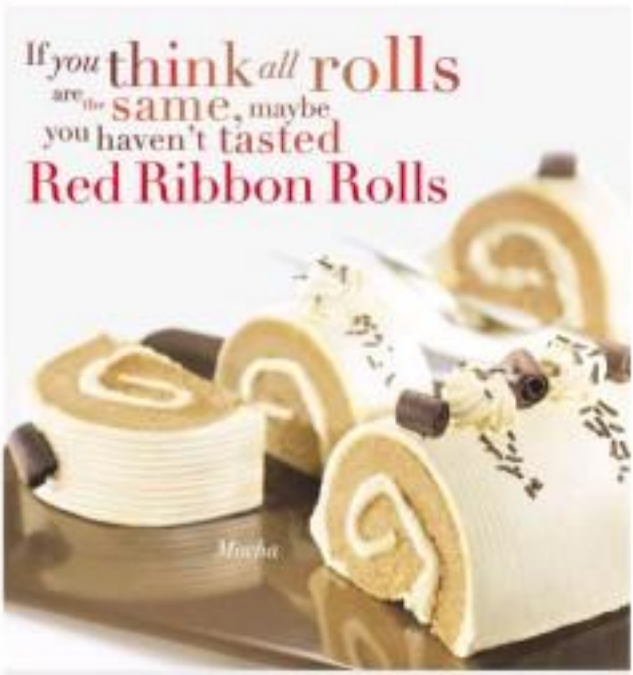
A low pressure area has been spotted off Mindanao that may develop into a typhoon in the next five days, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

The low pressure area, a rain-inducing weather system estimated to be 870 kilometers east of Mindanao, could also be felt in the Visayas, Pagasa weather observer Rhea Di Mayo told the Inquirer by phone yesterday.

The rain in Luzon was brought by the tail-end of a cold front, he said.

Di Mayo added that based on the movements of the low pressure front, the weather system was likely to develop into a typhoon in four to five days.

Nikko Dizon



Philippine Christian University
College of Law
Taft Avenue, Manila

Now accepting Applicants for Academic Year 2009 - 2010 and PCU Pre-Bar and Pre-Week Lecture Series

Open to advanced reviewees and incoming 2nd, 3rd and 4th year law students.

- Accessible Campus
- Law Library
- Free Wifi (Internet Access)
- Secure and Adequate Parking Space
- Airconditioned Auditorium

Comelec resets bid opening

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

ANGELES CITY— The opening of bids for the supply of Precinct Counting Optical Scan (PCOS) machines to be used in the country's first fully automated elections in 2010 has been moved to May 4, Commission on Elections Chair Jose Melo said here yesterday.

Originally set for today, the bids opening for the supply of some 80,000 machines was moved due to a "technicality."

Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez said the postponement came after the commission issued a new bid bulletin tightening bidders' requirements for the implementation of the automation equipment would be too strict.

"The rules state that there may only be a bidding seven days after the issuance of a bid bulletin," Jimenez said in a telephone interview.

Jimenez said the postponement would give the bidders an opportunity to review the financial aspects of their respective bids in light of the last exemption.

"The rule says any bulletin must be given seven days before the bidding. That's why they postponed it," Melo said in an interview after the Angeles University Foundation here conferred on him an honorary doctor of laws degree.

But he assured the public the delay would not disrupt the Comelec's preparations for computerized polls.

The PCOS is a machine-based system in which a voter marks his choices on a specially-printed ballot with security marks. The ballot is then fed into a scanner, which records and scores the votes.

The Comelec aims to award the contract before May 22 to give the winning bidder enough time to configure the machines.

Eleven foreign firms have expressed interest in bidding for the PCOS contract. These are American firms Sequoia, Avante, ES&S, Hart and Scantron; Venezuelan Smartmatic; United Kingdom's 3M; Indra (Spain).

Japan's Nami's JMS Korea; Gilat Satellites of Israel; and Spain's Indra Sistemas.

Based on the Comelec's timetable, the winning supplier must deliver the machines by Nov. 29 and have tested them by December.

Melo said the Comelec was also preparing a resolution setting the schedule for the filing of certificates of candidacy (COC) by national and local candidates on Nov. 30, 2009.

The ballots, which will bear the names of the national and local candidates, are scheduled to be printed beginning Jan. 7, 2010, he said.

What is being resolved by the poll body is if the filing of COCs signals the start of the campaign period and should candidates holding public office vacate their posts so they could start campaigning.

With Rowmarie Bordadora

MCLE FOR LAWYERS

32nd MCLE - May 11, 16, 22 & 23, 2009

Sponsored by: **ChanRobles Law Net, Inc.**

REGISTER ONLINE at www.chanrobleslawnet.com

In these turbulent
TIMES,
being prepared is a
POWERFUL ASSET.

Times are tough. Which is why it is wise for companies to gear up now. It is always best to fight any crisis head-on.

The only way to do that is to have people whose skills and attitudes are honed and maneuvered for the critical times.

Here's where we can help. Guthrie-Jensen offers result oriented programs designed to help your organization sustain profitability during crisis. Our training programs will turn your people into competitive strategic planners, effective leaders, confident communicators, successful sales people, and customer service champions — unfazed by any crisis.

Let Guthrie-Jensen train your people and create the advantage that will let you steer your company from crisis to opportunity. Call us now! 24 HRS seats available.

Guthrie-Jensen. Sharpen skills for tougher times.

EFFECTIVE DEBT COLLECTION
May 19-21, 2009

Are your receivables giving you headaches?

Even the best sales strategies are useless if collections are poor due. Don't leave your agents to their own devices; use collection efforts as **opportunities for excellent service.** Learn to **collect debts while still keeping customer's loyalty.** With **EFFECTIVE DEBT COLLECTION,** you will:

- Develop a customer-centered approach
- Prepare for collection calls - no matter how tough
- Deal effectively with the three types of debtors
- Anticipate and deal with potential barriers and objections
- Discuss and apply three effective ways of collecting receivables
- Use the right tone of voice to establish credibility and draw cooperation
- Choose the right words to persuade the customer to pay now
- Create an action plan to guide them

MANAGING ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIORS AT THE WORKPLACE
May 19-21, 2009

Are you getting excellent performance from your people?

Most performers have three major things going for them: **exceptional work knowledge, superb skills and positive attitudes.** Most achievers have been call 'because managers and Unit leaders failed to detect signs of unbelievable work practices and behaviors and do something about it. Learn the **secrets of unbearing the full potential** among your people. With **MANAGING ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIORS AT THE WORKPLACE,** you will:

- Understand the value of having a positive attitude at work and its components
- Create proper mindset to develop a sense of ownership
- Analyze and resolve issues by creating and adopting the "attitude advantage"
- Strengthen open communication and harmonious relationships within the organization
- Prepare, focus and direct employees behavior to align with company goals
- Implement concrete and practical action points that would help them succeed as individuals and as part of the organization

STRATEGIC HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
May 26-28, 2009

Do you want to discover the new competitive edge?

HR is not just the department that hires, fires, and fires people. Human resource management is part of your entire organization's strategic process. Learn **the value of strategic HRM, Rationalize training and development** and review **strategies for engagement** these changes presents. With **STRATEGIC HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT,** you will:

- Assess if your organization is doing strategic HR or not
- Understand the strategic HR relationship
- Has the right people at the time
- Design appraisal strategies that will really move people forward and upward
- Find out how several practices, career development and training can train and motivate your people
- Manage employee and employees relationships more effectively
- Turn employees' skills into learning initiatives
- Make HR skills pay off for the company

29 Years
GuthrieJensen
CONSULTANTS TO MANAGEMENT
SMARTER SKILLS FASTER RESULTS
For inquiries and reservations call
Caroline, Dione, Li, or Tessa at **892-7689, 894-0446,** or **892-7641**
or visit www.guthriejensen.com
4th Floor ACE Building, 101-103 Rada cor. Dela Rosa Streets, Legaspi Village, Makati City

Sick of
LEAKS?
Consult the expert...

Dr. SEAL REPAIR is a waterproofing sealant that:

SUMMER DEALS
BEST VALUE

GREAT DISCOUNTS OF UP TO
50%
ON SELECTED CLOCKS

0%
INSTALLMENT PLANS

SENTIMENTAL TIMES & MORE!

WORLD CLASS SLIMMING, FITNESS, FACE AND SKIN BY SLIMMERS WORLD

BUY 1 MONTH GET 1 MONTH FREE!

PLUS! Personal Training and all the Latest Aerobics!

PLUS! BIG DISCOUNTS on any Skin, Face & Body Treatments.

CORE POWER TRAINING PLUS BIOMETRICS

is the Ultimate in FITNESS, FAT and CELLULITE LOSS. It's the way that Jolaida Niccolai Peña lost 20 lbs. under medical supervision to win the Slimmers World Bikini Body Contest.

Build great Gluteal Muscles FREE OF CELLULITE!

- NO MONTHLY DUES OR LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP!
- NO JOINING FEES!
- CREDIT CARD OPTIONS AT 0%
- MEDICAL SUPERVISION AT ALL CENTERS!

Get lean, firm and sexy with a great skin by...

VITADERM

This 30-minute intensive treatment fights the signs of ageing and skin damage, leaving your skin nourished, radiant and youthful.

"Ageless beauty in just 30 minutes!"

-Jolaida Niccolai Peña
Slimmers World
Bikini Body Winner

BUY 15 TREATMENTS GET 15 FREE!

PLUS! BIG DISCOUNTS on Fitness, Slimming & Personal Training Programmes.

CALL OUR ONE - STOP SUPER CENTERS FOR FITNESS, SKIN, BODY AND FACE.

FITNESS HOTLINE: 536-3333
SKIN HOTLINE: 525-8771
MOBILE NUMBER: 091- SLIMMERS (754663771)

www.slimmersworld.com.ph * inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

WHAT'S HER PROBLEM?

- ☐ She didn't get enough sleep
- ☐ She gets moody in the morning
- ☐ She was late for work
- ☐ She can't concentrate at the office
- ☐ She's always tired
- ☐ Her allergies are getting worse

☑ **All of the above. Her aircon is not a Carrier.**

Carrier

No. 1 in air conditioning

24/7 Customer Hotline
863 5555

Text anywhere, anytime!
FASTXT

Largest After-Sales Network
NATIONWIDE AFTER-SALES NETWORK

Parts Availability!
TOTALINE PARTS

100 Years of Cooling!

Hunt for Vagni continues; he's alive, says AFP

ZAMBOANGA CITY—THE MILITARY CONtinues to search for kidnapped International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) worker Italian engineer Eugenio Vagni in Sulu.

"Mandanag pa din operasyon. Hindi pang definite na position o location (We continue to look for him. There is no information on his exact position or location)," Western Mindanao Command chief Lt. General Nelson Allaga told **the Inquirer by phone.**

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) earlier said the idre Sayyaf holding Vagni had split into four groups, apparently to confuse government troops pursuing them.

Allaga said there were "minor skirmishes" that occurred between government troops and suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits in Sulu, but clarified the engagements were not with the group holding Vagni.

Vagni was kidnapped in front of the Sulu Provincial Capitol complex in Patikul on Jan. 15 along with fellow ICRC workers Filipina Mary Jean Lacaba and Swiss Andreas Notbio.

Lacaba was freed on April 2 while Notbio **is presently camped on April 16.**

According to Allaga, Vagni is still alive, "Hindi wala namang ibinalitang may report that (he is dead)."

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, in a text **message to the Inquirer yesterday, said the** group holding Vagni was back in Indanan after a brief stay in Talipao town.

He said government troops and civilian volunteers had returned to their positions in the **village of Tucan in Indanan, searching the hin**terlands. —Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

High court junks ex-solon's protest

THE SUPREME COURT HAS DISMISSED the election protest filed by former Northern Samar Rep. Raffy Abayon against Northern Samar Gov. Raul Daza who was proclaimed by the Commission on Elections as the winner of **the province's gubernatorial race in the 2007** election.

Voting 8-6, the Supreme Court en banc junked Abayon's protest for having been filed 40 days late.

The high court's decision penned by Justice Minita Chico-Nazario said the petition filed by Abayon before and after the Comelec pro**claimed Daza the winner on May 20, 2007,** didn't involve pre-proclamation controversies **that would have caused the suspension of the** 30-day period within which election protests should be filed.

On May 19, 2007, Abayon asked the Comelec to exclude certificates of canvass from **three towns due he said had been prepared on** the claims, threats and intimidation. Two days later, he sought the nullification of Daza's **proclamation as governor.**

Court records showed that Abayon filed his **election protest on June 29, 2007, or 40 days** after the Comelec proclaimed Daza.

The court said Abayon failed to justify the **delay in the filing of his election protest.**

"Jurisprudence makes it clear that the non**filing of a petition denominated as a pre-procla**mation case or one seeking the annulment of a proclamation will not suspend the 10-day period for filing an election protest," the en banc said.

"It is required that the issues raised in such a petition be restricted to those that may be properly included therein," it added. —Norman Bordadora

E. Lacuna; 54

ENRICO "BOY" LACUNA, FORMER business director of 8Tense, marketer of hospital supplies and equipment, died of cancer on April 20. He was 54.

He is survived by his wife Baby; children Paulo and Mathorne; granddaughter Erice Mortenne; mother Lita; and siblings and in-laws, Dudy and Dianne, Myra and Bru, Lua and Ed, Lenlen and Leland, and Gerry and Sunnie.

He was dean of both the Marilaqs Enrounter Organized Encounters and the MF Interest Community. He was also at one time Grand Tinkolos of Tau Gamma Phi Fraternity at **Ateneo de Manila University.**

His remains lie in St. Carmel Chapel in New Manila, Quezon City. Interment will be on April 28 at 11 a.m. at Montage Hills, Wet Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Militant drivers set transport strikes in Bicol, Davao

MEMBERS OF THE MILITANT transport group Piston will stage a strike in the Bicol region today and in Davao on Wednesday.

In a statement issued yesterday, Piston (Pagkakaisa ng mga Samahan ng Tsuper at Operator Nationwide) secretary general George San Mateo said the regional strikes were "build-up protests" to pressure Malacañang and the Department of Transportation and Communications to suspend an order raising penalties for traffic violations.

He also said other chapters and affiliates of Piston would stage "various forms of protest" in the coming days.

He warned that the protests could lead to a nationwide strike if the transport department insisted on implementing the higher penalties against violators. Alan F. Ohoborbo

Budget Shopper. Smart Shopper.

Be 3x rewarded for shopping wisely!

Shop using your Citi card and join Citi's Smart Shopper Promotion!

We know you're being more careful with your spending these days. Good thing you get more value for your money with your Citi card. Earn 3x Rewards points whenever you purchase your everyday essentials at SM Department Store, Ace Hardware, Baby Company, Our Home and Toy Kingdom to start earning your Rewards points today - because your credit card should make every peso count.

BE A SMART SHOPPER AND EARN
3X REWARDS POINTS
EVERYTIME YOU USE YOUR CITI CARD

To qualify for 3x Rewards Points from April 17, 2009 to June 30, 2009,
text CITI <space> 16 digit Citi card number to 2580
or visit www.citibank.com.ph

Don't have a Citi card? Call 423-5808

Citi never sleeps

citi

Great deals this hot summer season you shouldn't miss!

SUMMER SWING-OUT SALE

April 18 - 30, 2009

Visit any Yamaha Music Stores or Parkes Pitch Stores nationwide for more details

www.yupengco.com

GUN and helmet of a fallen soldier in the Corregidor memorial site. EDWIN LOPEZ

SC ruling pits Left, Right in House fight

Front page A2

Friday's proclamation implemented swiftly the landmark decision of the Supreme Court on Tuesday that effectively voided the House membership to 20%, from the current 230.

The 1987 Constitution provides that the House "shall be composed of not more than 250 members, unless otherwise fixed by law" and that "party-list representatives shall constitute 20 percent of the total number of representatives including those under the party-list."

The political significance of the decision to most bewildering than expanding the House membership. It involves a test of whether or not the number of party-list representatives—as mandated by the 20% policy of promoting proportional representation through a party-list system that would enable the "marginalized and underrepresented" sectors to have a voice in Congress.

It has also raised the issue of whether or not the party-list mechanism has subverted the concept that communists and leftists can be empowered to enter the parliamentary arena while abandoning their revolutionary struggle.

The fact that left-wing parties have joined the first party-list elections and won seats is proof that the system has provided enough incentives for insurgents and marginalized groups to join the system.

Peaceful coexistence?

The Supreme Court's decision has also inadvertently opened the way for the entry of right-wing party-list groups into the parliamentary arena, exemplified by the proclamation of Pulgaron's Bayanihan as among the winning groups.

Pulgaron is a well-known spokesman of leftist groups, which have chosen to join the parliamentary arena through the party-list system.

Now, the next question that has ideologically conflicting groups would coexist in the system.

Bunye's proclamation ignited rumors among left-wing activists who have been party-list seats in the House, including Bayan Muna, Anakpawis and Gabriela.

Irony of it

In an ironic twist, it was Comelec Chair Jose Melo who proclaimed Pulgaron's Bantay among the party-list groups which have benefited from the Supreme Court's decision. Melo was chairman of a presidential fact-finding commission that looked into the extrajudicial killings of hundreds of leftist activists in Mindoro, Eastern Visayas and Central Luzon, where Pulgaron waged a counterinsurgency campaign when he was still with the military.

The Melo Commission held Pulgaron accountable under the principle of command responsibility for the killings in his area of command. He was called "bandgo" (bathed) by witnesses who testified before the commission.

The commission reported that although much of the evidence against Pulgaron and other military officials were "circumstantial," it "was presented with a certain degree of credibility to nothing, to all probability, some elements in the military were among rebels is supported by his General Pulgaron, are responsible for the killings."

Pulgaron's sector

A question was raised over whether Pulgaron represented a marginalized and underrepresented sector. He drew her own by statement that his sector is elusive "sectors of communist rebels, Citizens' Armed Forces Geographical Units (Cafgus), former rebels, security guards and others of similar occupations."

When asked what he would do if he would propose, Pulgaron said: "I would focus on the welfare and protection of these sectors, and improve their livelihood. The Cafgus, for instance, live only on small allowances and they have no benefits but that would do today."

When objecting to the statement that he plans to continue organizing a "counterinsurgency

Front page A1

should remind us of the atrocities of war."

Tourism with a sense of purpose and history should not take this island or the mouth of Manila Bay, 48 kilometers west of Manila or about three hours of boarding in a luxury 75-ft Islands Cruise ship.

"The fastest-to value for the island's a the main attraction, but Corregidor has a lot more to offer," Lt. Col. Antonio Mariñas, executive director of the Corregidor Foundation Inc., said in a telephone interview.

Corregidor was the last bastion of U.S. forces in the Philippines in World War II. They surrendered their headquarters at the Malinta Tunnel, a hand-dug tunnel complex built by the US Corps of Engineers in 1932. The tunnel was completed in 1932.

Malinta Tunnel

The Malinta Tunnel was also the seat of the Philippine Commonwealth government during the war. Then President Manuel L. Quezon and US Gen. Douglas MacArthur took off from the island for Australia in February 1942.

Corregidor fell to the Japanese Imperial Army on May 6, 1942, or 27 days after Bataan fell on April 9, 1942.

For the monuments' war veterans and their kin, the island is a treasure trove of memories of courage, heroism and love of country.

"There are veterans who come here for the last time. They are in their '80s and '90s," Mariñas said.

But there who were too young to fight during the war, a visit here made them come to grips with their deep-seated traumas about the war.

Tourist destination

For the ship-hoisted silver tourist and nature-trippers, Mariñas said the island has seen for trekking, rock climbing, swimming and ice-skating.

Last year, Mariñas said a total of 16,872 tourists visited the island. It was a dismal number compared to the 300,000 visitors in 2003.

Tourism on the island declined largely because of problems of transportation. "Tourism also depends on fuel costs and the general economic situation," he said.

Mariñas hopes for a resurgence of the tourism industry with a new cruise ship, plus the publicity generated by the United States' decision setting up a $150-million financial package for some 14,000 surviving Filipino war veterans.

Most of the 180 tourists who visited the war memorial last month on board the 7107 Islands Cruise ship agreed that the veterans deserved recognition and financial aid—no matter how little and how late—and a chance in their future.

Mariñas described tourism here as "inherently restricted."

"It usually starts in December and peaks in April and May with the Fall of Bataan and the Fall of Corregidor," he said.

Corregidor relics help ease war victims' pain

Front page A1

Japanese in masks: For health or fashion?

Front page A4

face—the Japanese have surgical masks and wear them just about everywhere they go.

This year's count, the H1N1 model by Bill, a thick and comfy impregnable face mask with a noticeable nose groove and extra breathing space. The heavier than normal mask can go to about $30 (1,500 yen) or more.

There are other specialty types.

Masks made for people with glasses. Masks designed not to smudge makeup. Kids' masks, with colorful cartoon characters such as Hello Kitty or Mickey Mouse. Models even advertise them in TV commercials—in one, a tall woman walks gracefully through the city, her bright mask shining at night.

Japan in the spring gets a double whammy of influenza germs and cedar pollen—leading to runny noses, watery eyes and coughing. The masks are primarily to protect against the pollen. But, perhaps even more importantly, they are a show of consideration for others by demonstrating that, if you are ill in public, at least you are trying to keep your germs to yourself.

Passing into culture

Topsy is hardcore to the point of being obsessive," said Kyle Cleveland, a cultural anthropologist who teaches at Temple University's Tokyo campus. "People are willing to acknowledge and recognize the value of not making their coworkers or classmates sick."

Not all agree masks do that, particularly regarding the flu.

Jim Lemon, a British surgeon at the Tokyo Medical and Dental Clinic, does not recommend masks to his patients, who are mostly Westerners. He said the value of masks prevention strategy is difficult to measure because many international comes from companies that are marketing the product.

"Rather than being based on any hard scientific evidence, it's passed into the culture," Lemon said. "I think it reflects passive awareness that they're part of a group."

For pollen, however, the masks are a

JAPAN in the spring gets a double whammy of influenza germs and cedar pollen, leading to runny noses, watery eyes and coughing. The mask is primarily to protect against the pollen. But, perhaps even more importantly, they are a show of consideration for others by demonstrating that, if people are ill in public, at least they are trying to keep their germs to themselves.

bulky option against what all agree is a major problem.

More than 25 million Japanese people—about one in five—suffer from pollen allergies, which became a national cause for concern after World War II, when the government reforested the cores of planting scores of cedar trees in mountainous areas.

Mask market

After the trees matured, the wind began spreading oceans of pollen throughout the country, especially affecting densely packed cities. Now, the daily pollen count is part of the routine weather report.

Health companies have spun the hay fever problem into gold.

Sales for both long-lasting and disposable masks have sharply risen in the past three years, showing that they continue to be a ubiquitous, recession-proof commodity.

The mask market was worth $129 million (12.9 billion yen) in 2007, and $118 million (11 billion yen) the year before, according to data from the Yano Research Institute, a marketing research firm. Sales for the 2008 fiscal year—which ended March 31—are expected to top $140 million (14 billion yen).

Unchanon, one of Japan's biggest makers of masks and other health-care products, has reported recent strong growth in mask sales.

"We have responded to a heightened sense that one should take responsibility for 'self-care' to protect one's own health," the company said in its earnings report for April-December of last year.

Fashionable, responsible

But some reasons are that, more than a health issue, they wear the masks almost as a fashion statement. By wearing a mask, the thinking goes, you are showing that you are being socially responsible.

"It comes from kindness, thoughtfulness—Japanese characteristics," said mask-wearing Hisashi Yamamoto, a secretary, who was standing near one of Japan's busiest intersections on his way home recently.

"Wearing a mask is certainly counteractive, if I am sick enough, I should wear a mask because everyone should think of others," Yamamoto said.

Yuko Tanaka, a government worker who wears the street "super disinfected" model that he coughs around her cheeks and nose, said she doesn't even at home to she doesn't spread any germs to her son, who is studying for Japan's highly competitive university entrance exams.

"If he were sickened by my disease," she said, "I would feel bad." AP

Yano may be out before you know it

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THERE COULD BE AN EARLY TURNOVER of the military leadership in incumbent Army chief Lt. Gen. Victor Ibrado, Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro said yesterday.

Although Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Alexander Yano's retirement is not until June 13, Bacarro said turnover ceremonies could be held sometime in May, possibly May 1.

Bacarro could not explain Abalos-angle's decision to advance the turnover. "It could be because of the President's schedule or it could be something else," he said.

A turnover on May 1 would cut short Yano's term by 44 days. He assumed the highest military post in May 2006 after Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., now chief of the Presidential Management Staff, completed his extended term.

Unless his own coming term is extended, Ibrado is set to retire in March 2010, or two months before the presidential elections.

Taking the place of Ibrado as Army chief is Lt. Gen. Delfin Bangit, current head of the Northern Luzon Command who reportedly has President Macapagal-Arroyo's trust.

Camp Aguinaldo was abuzz yesterday with news of the advanced turnover. The Pio del Pilar lounge just behind the AFP grandstand was thronged off limits.

Farewell visits set

Officers in charge of escorting the lounge, which would be Mr. Arroyo's designated holding area, said they were expecting the Presidential Security Group to do an inspection within the week.

Sources in the military said Yano had scheduled farewell visits to the Philippine Navy and Philippine Air Force on Tuesday.

At Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, a three-day Youth Leadership Summit and peace concert which was scheduled to coax the Army guardians on May 1 was transferred to another venue, "due to the bizarre turn of events," said an organizer but not sources.

"The peace concert has to give way to preparations for the turnover of the COIN (Commanding General of the Philippine Army)," they said.

Former Maoists, president of Guardians Nationalist of the Philippines (Gonap), a group supportive of detained rebel Gen. Danilo Lim had this to say about the turnover: "The president is not completely at ease with General Yano. Her initial desire was Bangit, but this did not sit well with the chain of command, so Ibrado became the compromise replacement."

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, April 27, 2009
5th Week of Lent

1st Reading — Acts 4:8-12
Gospel — Jn 8:12-20

After Jesus had fed the five thousand, his disciples saw him walking on the water. Next day the people who had stayed on the other side realized that only one boat had been there and that Jesus had not entered it with his disciples, rather, the disciples had gone away alone. Since boats from Tiberias came near the place where all these people had eaten the bread, when they saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Master, when did you come here?"

Jesus answered, "Truly, I say to you, you look for me, not because you have seen signs but because you ate bread and were satisfied. Work then, not for perishable food, but for the lasting food which gives eternal life. The Son of Man will give it to you, for he is the one the Father has marked."

Then the Jews asked him, "What shall we do? What are the works that God wants us to do?" And Jesus answered them, "The work God wants is this: that you believe in the one whom God has sent."

Commentary

Stephen was one of the first seven Christians deacons, and he is generally regarded as the first Christian martyr. The seven deacons were chosen to assist in the service of the new church in Jerusalem. There was no doubt as to Stephen's exceptionally good character, and the tremendous power that he had been given by God. When the members of the synagogue could not answer Stephen's arguments, they persuaded him as a criminal and brought false witnesses against him. It is a moral miracle of providence that not more Christians were then murdered, by way of private and distortion of law, when so many thousands were Christians. The Mosaic law within the heart of the sinful person, who, following Christ, stumbles in a deceitful and desperately wicked fashion, is, while we are servants of Christ and like Stephen, we possess a clear conscience, cheerful hope and divine assurance, we know we can smile in the midst of danger and death.

RP seeks help on nuclear waste, just in case

By Amy R. Remo

WHAT TO DO WITH THE WASTE A NUclear power plant can leave out?

Energy Secretary Angelo T. Reyes has asked developed countries for help in coming up with solutions to the problem, as the government continues to consider nuclear power as a viable energy source.

In his speech at the International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Energy in the 21st Century in Beijing last week, Reyes said the Philippine government was still studying the use of nuclear power as a long-term option to reduce the country's dependence on imported fossil fuels as a primary power source.

The secretary explained that like other developing countries, the Philippines—owing to its growing requirements for electricity—was planning its future on nuclear power, which is cheaper and more polluting than the coal-fired and petrol plants.

"Our country's renewed interest to use nuclear power, like the rest of the world, is primarily driven by our need to ensure energy security, due to inability of fossil fuel prices, and also by carbon dioxide emissions," Reyes told reinforcement participants.

The government, however, would have to first address the matters of nuclear waste disposal—one of the most sensitive and critical issues confronting the adoption of nuclear power," Reyes said.

He then asked the participants of the three-day meet to "contribute ... ideas" to the perennial Philippine problem.

"The Philippines, a developing country that depends much on imported fuels, is forging ahead with plans to realize energy security and an optimal energy mix given the realities the country faces," Reyes said.

He asserted that it is finally doable to consider nuclear power, the Philippines would work closely with the United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The IAEA organized the Beijing conference primarily to allow participants to discuss issues and developments in the role of nuclear power in providing clean and sustainable energy for national and regional development.

"Consistent with the recommendations of an IAEA expert mission, we have formed the Inter-Agency Core Group on Nuclear Energy to study the prospect of introducing nuclear power in our energy system," Reyes said.

The Philippines was expected to go nuclear in the 1980s during the Marcos regime with the construction of the $2.3-billion Bataan Nuclear Power Plant.

The facility, however, was never commissioned but was mothballed due to the cost overruns that attended the entire project and the discovery that the plant was full of defects and was built near an earthquake fault.

Reviving the idea—hopeless of nuclear power, the Philippines is rushing to depend less on fossil fuels by turning to renewable energy sources such as wind, water and geothermal power, Reyes said.

"While we have taken a big step toward clean energy utilization, our objectives are that the contribution of renewable energy sources to the country's power requirements is postponed to 10-15 percent until 2030," Reyes said.

He said that the Philippines, being a signatory to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, was fully committed to doing its part in addressing global warming.

A CHILD TAKES part in a candle ceremony marking the 23rd anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear plant accident that killed and sickened thousands in Ukraine on April 26, 1986. Calling for safe alternative energy for the Philippines, members and supporters of Greenpeace Al team their 2,000 candles at Banaong-ngongo Bayan Park in Quezon City to spell out the words "Survivors." (GREENPEACE)

Clean, Safe, Spacious

BANGSO STUDENT DORMITORY

FEMALE DORMITORY FOR RENT

P3,000 - P5,000/month per person/student

Pure Drinking Water Available

Fully Furnished Rooms with Common Bathroom

Near Bangso Hospital

Bangso, Bangar, La Union

Tel. No. (072) 607-2222

Cell No. 0917-5555555

Email: bangsodorm@yahoo.com

Catholic party drafts 'Kiko' for 2010

THE CATHOLIC POLITICAL party Ang Kapatiran has drafted Sen. Francis Pangilinan as its possible standard-bearer in the 2010 presidential election.

Pangilinan was officially informed about the decision in letter once this a week ago, Eva Miranda, party president, said. The group was awaiting an official response from the lawmaker.

The nomination did not exactly come as a surprise since the name had been in search with Mandaluyong area before the mid of the party's selection process.

Miranda said a small group of Kapatiran officials sat down with Pangilinan a month ago to "update" one another on political developments at the time.

"I learn Kiko (Pangilinan's nickname) is vying for the vice presidency, but maybe he has to look beyond the vice presidency," Miranda told the Inquirer.

Miranda also acknowledged that Pangilinan, being a senator, was not isolated from the political issues which is assumed by multi-issued politics.

"But if I were to personally say so, Kiko is at the forefront of the 'reape' (multi-issued politics) pole," he said.

Miranda cited Pangilinan's "independence," particularly during the 2007 elections when he trained down critics to run with both the administration and opposition parties.

"That showed real independence," he said.

But should Pangilinan accept the nomination, he said the country would have to leave the Liberal Party and officially become a member of Kapatiran, Christian Democratic Republican Party.

Most Complete Line of Cooking Equipment
CLARICITY COMMERCIAL INCORPORATED
SAINT MARY'S College of San Juan
Panasonic PABX P16,499 FREE Blocal Phones
Intel Communication Corp. 363-1083 • 364-8277
NEED CASH? United Trust Corp. CAR LOAN 1 HR. RELEASE 656-0140
Power savers that save 30 to 50% electricity!
IMPERIAL THERMOCORR ROOFING
Longspan Thermoplastic Roofing with UV Protection
ENDELHART MANUFACTURING CORP.
AFTER THE STOKE? WALK! (Walking is vital to full recovery)
"MARDY" 4-Wheel Walker
FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
LARGE FORMAT PRINTER
idec
Split Type Wall Mounted Aircon 1hp-P16,500
Free Installation!
Hydraulic Parking Lifts
Free Installation!
TIRED OF ROOF LEAKS, HEAT AND RUST?
ROOF MATE
ROOF WATER PROOFING AND HEAT-REFLECTIVE COATING SYSTEM
662-0680 • 869-3082 • 973-7042
MERCURY
190 liters (2-3 persons) - P25,000
Free Installation!
your Vacation getaway
TAGAYTAY COUNTRY HOMES 2
P 983,200 cash P 9,345/mo.
TAGAYTAY EXECUTIVE VILLAGE
P3.33M cash P31,715/mo.
812-2222 • cityland.ael
CITYLAND
Good Location. Good View
BAGUIO
VACATION APTS.
Brand New
InFocus
SHOW! Don't Tell.
Visualize your ideas in full confidence and clarity. InFocus projectors magnify your thoughts in a most vivid and straight-forward manner. Real results comes with great conviction. Be InFocus and see the bigger Picture.
X16
X17
P24,990*
Mag-Negosyong Hi-tech na!
COLOR KING
8 points that will guarantee fastest ROI:
340 customers x 140 business cards x (2.50 selling - 0.18 cost) = 77,952 profit
P6,399*
atbp...
ID Printing
Sticker Making

ISSN 0116-2042 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER VOL. 29 NO. 159

OPINION

The romance of rape

EDITORIAL

IT IS TEMPTING TO DESCRIBE THE DECISION OF the Court of Appeals acquitting Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith of the crime of rape, promulgated by the all-female 11th special division, as the revenge of the wenches. The decision certainly seems to have been written by a conspiracy of spinsters, in vigorous denial of reality and sustained by fantasies of chivalry (in favor of the American invitational) and chastity (against the women we all call "Nicole").

"This court finds [as] deceptively portraying Nicole's portrayal of herself as a demure provincial lass," the CA ruled, contrary to the unflattering characterizations, sometimes using colors supplied by the victim herself, that the trial painted of flirty hard-drinking Nicole. "On hindsight, we see this prosecution's theory as a protective shield against her own indecorous behavior."

You can almost visualize the three (married) justices eyeballing their noses, in the effeminacy of an unknown woman protesting rape. After all, only decorously behaved women can be raped, right? And what happened to Subic was merely the "unfolding of a spontaneous, unplanned romantic episode."

It would be tempting to mock the justices, especially because this approach allows us to point to the ludicrousness at some of the assumptions that went into the decision. Can't a brazen city girl (to propose an alternative to the special division's unfair description) fall victim to rape too?

But the mystery behind the decision masks a deeper flaw. The ruling pushes the jurisprudence on rape back to the 20th century: after all this time, the special division still understands rape as essentially a private crime, as a crime against chastity.

This, truly, is unfortunate. We assail the CA's reasoning, but we really have no quarrel with the judiciary's role in the resolution of the Subic rape case. By and large, it did its part in the administration of justice—which in the more than one could say about the Executive, which served as either lawyer or as co-dependent of the Americans. We are deeply disturbed, however, that the acquittal is based on grounds that reverses a decade's worth of gains in women's rights.

A key passage (crucial, but not the most offensive) in the CA's decision reads thus: "No evidence was introduced to show force, threat and intimidation applied by the accused [Smith] upon Nicole, even as the prosecution calmly tried to highlight her supposed intoxication and alleged unconsciousness at the time of the sexual act."

This finding suggests that only the presence of force, threat or intimidation can affirm a woman's capacity to give consent to sex; it also insinuates that women of "suitably and evidence disorder" (the language of the CA's special division, describing Nicole's behavior) cannot ever plead that their capacity for consent has been compromised.

The finding negates the breakthrough made in the original ruling of Makati Regional Trial Court Judge Benjamin Pozon, which emphasized that intoxication can rob a woman of the capacity to give consent. Pozon's emphasis is in accord with the liberalizing tendency that led to the (hard-fought) victory in Congress redefining rape as a crime against persons—and is in keeping with the trend in law that gained greater recognition to the dignity of women.

The special division took issue with the RTC's assertion that Nicole was too drunk to give her consent—"When a woman is drunk, she can hardly rise, much more stand up and dance, so she would just drop. This is a common experience among Filipino girls." This blithe and too-pat assumption runs counter to the eyewitness accounts tested in the trial court, about Smith carrying a woman on his back to the van, and about an almost unconscious woman being dumped outside the van (after the "romantic" deed was done).

Worst of all, the decision trivializes the "No" of the drunk Nicole. "Reminiscent by words of nourth [sic] does not suffice to establish that she indeed did not give her consent in the sexual intercourse," the court said.

What did they expect? A memo?

Publisher Isaac Tuason
Editor-in-Chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc
Managing Editor Jose Ma. D. Nolasco
Associate Editor Adelaida S. Lusares
Editorial Consultants Alejandro Chanco
Chief Photographer Edwin T. Tadeo
Art & Design Director Lisabet B. Palabay

Board Chairman Hector S. Pieto
President Alexander Prieto-Romualdez
Senior Vice President for Editorial Marketing Ernesto B. Rencoret
Vice Advertising Felipe M. Gozon
AVP for Circulation Elmer Simon B. Yap

All rights reserved.

Why should we pay for electricity we did not use?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

TODAY, THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS' Special Bids and Awards Committee will open the proposals of companies bidding to supply and operate the automated election system (AES) for the May 10, 2010 elections. They will consist of computerized national and local elections.

Everybody seems to be pinning their hopes for quick and honest elections on the election machines. With a budget of P11.3 billion (that's billion!), there are many bidders with many different election machines and systems. The job before the Comelec's bids and awards committee is to choose the best machine and system at the least possible cost. It failed bidding should have no place in the standards of the Comelec considering that there is very little time left before the elections. There was already a delay in the approval of the P11.3-billion supplemental budget for the poll automation, another bidding in case of a failed bid, would delay the setting up of the machines and system even more.

The Comelec cannot allow anything to go wrong in the bidding process and in the final selection of the winning bidder which should provide effective overall nationwide service and total customer support.

Since the technologies of the bidders are spread today, the most he could announce that the winning bidder shall be able to perform the following tasks on a nationwide scale:

1. Lease more than 80,000 units of "over-the-counter" optical scan machines with software, including the supply of printers and ballot paper.

2. Provide the software customization of vendor-tailored each personnel exam.

3. Provide nationwide training, technical support, warehousing, deployment, installation, pullout and system integration.

4. Conduct voter education program.

The poll body has already released a number of rules in the bidding process, particularly in determining the qualifications of the bidders. To encourage participation and to make the bidding process more competitive, the commission has relaxed the experience criteria to qualify more bidders.

Two technology providers are participating in the bidding, but only two firms based in the United States are highly qualified to supply and manage the poll automation, according to industry sources.

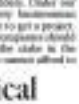
Comelec Chair Jose Melo and his bidding committee are urged to look closely at the track records of the local firms that have partnership agreements with the foreign solutions providers.

The industry is abuzz with the rumor that Indra Sistemas SA of Spain is still undecided whether or not to partner with Smartmatic in Janice Holdings Inc. (Janhi) of the Philippines. It is not clear if it had sent a witness about joining the bid.

Previously, Indra was able to bag the three biggest government computerization projects, worth billions of pesos, in alliance with three different firms. Hewlett-International Holdings got the Land Transportation Office's computerization project; Land Registration Authority, now, won the Land Registration Authority computerization; and RCA International Corp. won the machine-readable passport project of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

But as we all know already, the CEO project was stopped after the Commission on Audit declared the Australian firm's contract void. The COA also ordered that payments to the firm be suspended. The LRA project has remained uncompleted, and Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo has ordered that the passport contract be terminated.

After this, the Comelec should look closely into the track records of bidders. Under our free enterprise system, every businessman should have an equal chance to get a project, but the track record of the companies should be analyzed carefully. With the clock in the 2010 election, the Comelec cannot afford to



Conrado de Quiros

THERE'S THE RUB

Diabolical

COMELEC CHIEF JOSE MELO SAYS: "WE GOT the votes. What can you do? I am not bothered by it. We move forward."

That was his reaction to the accusation of Joseph Estrada to the Bells of Congress, courtesy of the Supreme Court, which ousted the mother of party-list congressmen Ilum 23 to 30. Melo was the head of the independent commission in 2006 that found good ground to prosecute Estrada for the massive of political activities.

What was needed?

Rocket science.

You can save your back with disgust at a government that allows these things to happen. No, more than that, that encourages these things to happen. You can shoulder briefs that this minority spits on the graves of those who have been encarbed by their lies from shallow graves and those whose ends exist this earth suddenly, their bodies disappeared from their loved ones forever. You can shower enough heaven that a murderer that goes unpunished is the surest encouragement for a murderer several times over who gets his time credited in this way tests out all that remains good and decent in this blighted land.

The least you can do is not say, "I am not bothered by it. We move forward." You are not bothered by this, you are outraged. You are not bothered by this, you have lost your moral moorings, joining all the others that used to be good men but got so used to the good life they can no longer say goodbye to it. You are not bothered by this, you are dead, joining the teeming corpses that feed the worms, courtesy of vulgarity and unshakable conviction that that is the only state that makes community good. Except that the dead, made so by the hands of Malacañan, are bother in that only their bodies are dead, their souls are not.

We move forward? How? We are not bothered by the stench of a fruitless life this, we do not go forward. Only travesty goes forward. Only subversion goes forward. Only death goes forward.

Melo had a point in 2006, however cynical or unfeeling his language. Though the evidence against Pulparios was largely "circumstantial," he wrote, "the independent commission can proceed with a certain degree of certitude in stating that the evidence points to elements in the military, among whom is suspected to be Gen. Palparios, are responsible for the recent killings of activists."

Philip Alston, the "merciless of the UN," as Raul Gonzalez called him, used the same thing, "circumstantial evidence," in describing the CIA team that investigated the "culture of impunity" in this country, and pointed as well to the military and Palparios as the main perpetrators of the carnage. Circumstantial? Hell, Palparios was boasting openly about his murders on TV with the full flushing of GMA during a period that saw vigorous protest against her illegitimacy, lacking in the reputation of being a lover in the countryside.

He was of course never convicted for it, but only because the witnesses who could tie it, indeed, only because he was praised in high heaven for it by his commander in chief, who promised him despite the protestations that jurisdiction and the carnage that greeted it. He was never found guilty of it, "not guilty because" his conviction in chief never came to pass, only a jab well done, a sign of loyalty unto death, even if it was the death of others and not his.

While at that, there's someone who is as much at sea as Palparios, if not more so. That is Norberto Gonzales, the Senate-supporting national security chief whose concept of ensuring national security includes lobbying the US Congress to violate anti-the Philippine Constitution, keeping GMA in power till 2010 and murdering political activists in the name of fighting communism. Pleading the constitutional right to remain silent in entry policy of measuring statements, real or imagined, and a national security policy—which, by hook has undertaken—of selling this country to the only remaining communist power on earth, which is China.

That is quite apart from GMA herself who allowed homicide and Palparios to steal the lives of her enemies after she stole the vote. The regime and its drugs have much to pay for when sanity and decency come back to this country.

You will think GMA will go away quietly next year?

Critics have reacted to the appointment of the additional members of Congress by saying it's a ruse to pass Cha-cha. I should think it's more than that. So much more than that.

GMA already has the numbers in Congress for Cha-cha. Why bother to add more? And she already has the Supreme Court. Why worry about protest, due or not? Her problem in fact is not getting Cha-cha through Congress and the Supreme Court. Her problem is getting it through the public.

Palparios's question to congressmen: does that by enacting the public to anarchy. It becomes in much the sense way as the harassment of Ted Failon, a warning to uncooperative media, does. It's not just in see how far they can go, it is to steadily raise the bar on what the public can be made to accept. Until they reach their real agenda.

More than that, it unleashes people who are not loath to cross all bounds of decency to do bird GMA. Palparios has for more than proved his grisly talents. His presumption to kill at a given with the policy of encouraging or tolerating the summary executions of presumed zombie-ists and criminals by the military and police. It is all of a piece with putting mobsters in military or having Angelo de los Santos's corpse "found" in a place with an increasing policy of terror waged against the innocent and hostile, who are the citizens of this country.

It's the other side of the coin. If the public cannot be persuaded to accept more of GMA, then terror forced to.

Which is why it is the madness. And with Palparios to supply the lure, a truly diabolical one it is.

There is a 4th mode, but no 5th mode

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

THE OPPOSITION TO CHARTER CHANGE (CHACHA) insists that none would allow no method of change that does not strictly follow the provisions of the 1987 Constitution. But, alas, we are now living under the 1987 Constitution and it is there where we should look for the allowable methods.

Although I do not favor amending the Constitution now, I have long been of the view, and have written about it, that a fourth mode of Charter change is constitutionally debatable. However, and just as well, its chances of success now range from minimal to nil.

The 1935 Philippine Constitution threw some only two methods of proposing amendments to the Constitution. The first was proposed by Congress in joint session assembled but voting separately by at least a three-fourths majority. The second was through a constitutional convention called by the majority by Congress in joint session assembled but voting separately also by a three-fourths majority. These two methods were spelled out in so many words in the text of the Constitution. There were no issues for interpretation.

Under the 1987 Constitution the basic provisions except: "Any amendment to, or revision of, the Constitution may be proposed by: (1) The Congress, upon a vote of three-fourths of all its Members; or (2) A constitutional convention."

Inevitably, amendments may be proposed by a constitutional convention. However, it does not now have a constitutional convention comes into existence. The constitutional text says: "The Congress may, by a vote of two-thirds of all its Members, call a constitutional convention, or by a majority vote of all its Members, submit to the electorate the question of calling such a convention." Must Congress vote on this in joint session or may the two houses call for a convention through separate sessions? We have not yet begun fighting over this.

Clearly, as Congress now may decide votes call a convention and do proposing of amendments by itself. There when the controversy is at the moment.

There is talk about Congress converting itself into a "constituent assembly." Bear in mind, this is legal fiction talk. By the fact that the Constitution explicitly mandates Congress to propose amendments, Congress is already a constituent assembly. It was different under the 1935 Constitution because then, for Congress to become a constituent assembly capable of proposing amendments, it had to be called to a joint session. Our present Constitution, has been amended to propose amendments and is therefore already a constituent assembly but how Congress should do the proposing is the problem.

From the economic language of the Constitution there are only two: the three-fourths vote that gives Congress the discretion to decide how to do it. But the discretion granted is not unlimited. What are the limits?

The fundamental limit is that proposals must be made by Congress. And since Congress consists of House and Senate, neither one nor the other may be excluded, imposed by one alone would not be proposed by Congress.

However, whereas the 1935 Constitution required that in proposing amendments Congress must be "in joint session assembled," in the 1987 Constitution there is no such requirement. Hence, Congress now is free to do it either in joint session or in separate sessions.

The idea of "separate sessions" is an element of what is now being referred to as the fourth method. And logically since the two houses would be in separate sessions, each house would be required separately to vote by a three-fourths majority.

The author, however, does the 1987 Constitution prohibit a "joint session." Hence, Congress may propose amendments in joint session. But would such "joint session" violate the fundamental character of Congress. What would violate the bicameral character of Congress is a joint vote for those entering the three-fourths majority.

The implicit requirement of separate voting is dictated by the bicameral character of Congress. Bicameralism has been adopted precisely for the purpose of ensuring that important decisions be non-but separately by the two Houses. It is for this reason that bills become law by separate votes. Constitutional amendments are more important than ordinary bills.

Briefly then, what are the modes of proposing amendments? The first is through a constitutional convention. The second is through "initiative and referendum." The third is through Congress in joint session assembled but voting separately. Fourth is through Congress in separate sessions and by three-fourths votes each.

Fifth mode? There is none. In all of this is that what is not prohibited by the Constitution, either explicitly or implicitly, is left to the discretion of Congress. If prohibition there is, it can come either from the letter of the Constitution or from the fundamental structure of the government. Thus, for instance, the implicit prohibition of joint voting comes from the bicameral structure of Congress.

Is there a fifth mode? The current tension stems from some elements in the House to ignore the mandate (can be called) in 1987, to limit themselves against the bicameral character of Congress. It has no basis.

Of Jun Lozada and Gen. Alexander Yano

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

MORE THAN A YEAR AGO, ROMULO "JUN" LOZADA became a household name in Philippine society with his revelations about a $329 million deal for the establishment of a telecommunications system, intended to link all units of government. Originally a build-operate-transfer (BOT) project, the contract of then-Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos into the picture changed things to one funded by a concessional loan from the People's Republic of China, specifically a Chinese firm, ZTE, as the supplier.

Just to refresh our short memories:

Jun Lozada in his capacity as consultant of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) under Secretary Romulo Neri, was in Subic Green Hills when he received a call from Neri. Neri told him that President Arroyo wanted to see him. Lozada was then told by Neri that the President wanted him to brief Abalos on the project. Lozada was told to go to the Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City where Abalos was staying. Lozada was told that Abalos was waiting for him in the lobby.

Lozada was then brought to a room where Abalos was with Neri and Arroyo's chief of staff, Mike Defensor. Lozada revealed that the initial project cost was only $262 million but there was an overprice of almost 100 percent because of a $100 million commission allegedly being demanded by Abalos. In an attempt to stop him from testifying before the Senate, he was offered a P200 million bribe (P100 million in cash and the balance in a Subic condominium unit) and a Toyota Fortuner SUV. He was also offered a diplomatic post. Lozada refused all the inducements.

Lozada was then brought to the presidential residence in Subic Green Hills where he was interrogated by Arroyo herself, Abalos, Neri, Defensor and Gen. Alexander Yano, chief of the Presidential Security Group (PSG). Lozada was told by Arroyo that Abalos was a "kumpadre" (godfather of her children) and that Abalos was "like a father to her." Lozada was told by Arroyo that Abalos was "like a father to her." Lozada was told by Arroyo that Abalos was "like a father to her." Lozada was told by Arroyo

LETTERS

The arrogance of 'servants' of the people

THE BLATANT DISPLAY OF ARROGANCE BY operatives of the Quezon City Police District (in the arrest of Yolanda Dong's relatives and Ted Failon's house help) only shows the mentality of our police force. They think they are above the law; some morons (they are the law).

Despite the civilian character of the Philippine National Police, many of our policemen act and behave as if they are the saviors of the Marcos dictatorship. It is not surprising then that many of our people no longer trust the police.

Oftentimes, policemen are called or enforced as an leverage, protectors of drug and gambling lords, and operators, if not protectors, of nightclubs, video karera and other establishments that undermine peace and order and destroy the moral country. There are, of course, efforts to cleanse the image of the police force, but just like corruption in the government, the problem is also doesn't vested and is not easy to address. It takes political will on the part of the PNP's top brass to cleanse the ranks. Not one of them, other Director General Pandilla Lazaro, has shown the will to discipline misguided elements of the PNP.

It's a pity to see the policemen of policemen engaging all the time in arresting crime suspects who are poor and are nobodies in our society, even though the suspects are presumed innocent until proven otherwise. The world has seen it to be in favor of Failon's house help realize how to the crime of obstruction of justice.

The policemen, their superior said, ought just for circumcision in the investigation because the case involves a well-known personality. I can believe what the superior said if the police had arrested Ronnie Ilet, Jocjoc Bolante or Jose Miguel Arroyo for obstruction of justice with the same seriousness. Alas, while one policemen kick and punch poor suspects and perceived acquaintances free, they relate and bow to the soldiers from the ruling class.

Citizens expect the police to enforce our laws without fear or favor. It might be best to remind our police officers that they are the servants not the masters, of our people.

—CRISTITO G. BAÑA,
Bro_bana@yahoo.com

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the inaccuracy of news and photos in the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City, Metro Manila Service, City of Makati or send a fax to this 897-4794, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate.inquirer.com.ph.

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer withholds publication of letters until such information is supplied.

Safety measures in SLEx are contractor's main responsibility

THE NEWS ITEM "CORY SAYS 6 DEAD ON SLEX" by Alcuin Papa (Inquirer, 4/14/09) quoted a Bay, Laguna resident, Christopher Flores, as saying: "The incident only showed that the PNCC and its contractors were unable to ensure the safety of the people using the expressway."

It also quoted another resident, Harold Bolatete: "The PNCC must live up to [its] that people will be flocking to and from the provinces for Holy Week. They should have placed warning lights or reflector markers in conspicuous areas to avoid accidents. As a government agency, the PNCC should prioritize the safety of the people like us who use the SLEx everyday."

We wish to clarify that traffic management in the South Luzon Expressway (SLEx) construction area has been placed by the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) under the responsibility of the Malaysian contractor. Therefore, the contractor is responsible for the proper installation of warning signs, safety barriers, reflectors and lights to guide the motorists.

We have used the contractor as numerous letters and communications about the lack of traffic safety measures and devices in the area. We have also informed the TRB about the failure of the contractor and subcontractors to act on the problem so that motorists may be supported.

Contrary to what has been reported, the Philippine National Construction Corp. has been exerting all possible efforts to ease the traffic inconveniences if the SLEx to the extent of penalizing the subcontractors as loads by not allowing trucks to continue with their construction activities in areas where their work will clearly impede the flow of traffic and post dangers to motorists.

Moreover, we are in sage as the public to see the project completed without delay to ease the heavy traffic along SLEx. PNCC officials have been truly vigilant in meeting its ...

—HILARIO M. GUEVARA,
senior vice president
Philippine National Construction Corp.,
Edsa corner Bellanca Street,
Mandaluyong City

The Real Deal

Absolutely All-in! No hidden charges for check-in baggage, inflight meals, snacks, beverages, entertainment, blankets and newspaper. Inclusive of surcharges.

Roundtrip to Regional Destinations

As low as US$ 38 Manila to Taipei

As low as US$ 58 Manila to Hong Kong or Macau

As low as US$ 78 Manila to Bangkok, Singapore or Saigon

As low as US$ 108 Manila to Jakarta, Beijing or Shanghai

As low as US$ 128 Manila to Osaka ₱108 Taxes

As low as US$ 162 Cebu to Tokyo Manila to Fukuoka or Nagoya

As low as US$ 148 Manila to Guam

As low as US$ 318 Manila to Sydney or Melbourne ₱203 Taxes

Roundtrip to Transpacific Destinations

As low as US$ 318 Manila to Honolulu ₱213 Taxes

As low as US$ 418 Manila to Los Angeles, San Francisco, Las Vegas or Vancouver ₱303 Taxes

Plus, enjoy these other advantages:
Modern, French-designed, convenient terminal. Spacious aircraft interiors and seating comfort. Modern fleet of B747, A340, A330, A320 and A319 aircraft. IOSA Certified (IATA Operational Safety Audit), the internationally accepted benchmark for global safety.

Book and buy only at www.philippineairlines.com

Non-refundable / non-refundable • Government taxes and fees apply • Limited seats. Not eligible to earn Miles with PAL's Mabuhay Miles

Selling Period: April 07 - 30, 2009
Travel Period: (Regional) June 1 - Oct. 15, 2009
(Transpacific One-way) June 1 - Dec. 20, 2009 • (Transpacific Roundtrip) Sept. 1 - Dec. 20, 2009

Philippine Airlines
WITH US, YOU'RE ALWAYS NO. 1

For more details, visit www.philippineairlines.com

MORE PRIZES... MORE WINNERS!
LALONG PINAINIT!
PREMYO SA RES'BO
SIZZLING SUMMER EDITION

₱1,000,000!
MARCH 27 WINNER
Estrellita S. Garcia ng Mabalacat, Pampanga

₱25,000! MAR. 27 & APR. 3 WINNERS
Manila Duarte dela Cruz ng Caloocan, Greater Valley
Romulo B. Aquino ng Parañaque City

₱5,000 DAILY DRAWS

TO JOIN, TEXT TO 9770:
PSR <G.A. TIN> <G.E. ID> <Amount>
Ex: PSR 102313232006<32100>100
PLDT/Smrte only

NEXT DRAW MAY 4

STOP TAX EVASION / ASK FOR RECEIPT

A project of the

Sponsored by

Celebrate Heritage Month this May

Filipino HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Schedule of Activities Heritage Month 2009

Opening Ceremonies
April 26 to 30
Naga: Avril at Sayaw sa Maogmang Lugar

May 1-2
Hederacion Pagromdom kan Sunkakanan
(Legacy: Remembering the Past)
Lagaspi

Closing Ceremonies
May 29-30
Manggad nga Antiquenio Panumdumin kang Pilipino
Antique

MAY 1
Banlo Fiesta
Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company with Philippine Fiestas Foundation Inc.
Rolando Gallena
5:00 pm (until May 4)

MAY 4
Solaris: A La Virgen Dolorosa
Convent of Colonial Church Museo
Rev. Ana Chanlo, Rev. Ana, Manila
6:00 pm

9th Biennial National Convention of Church, Cultural Workers & Practitioners
Jana Hotel, Lanag City, Ilocos Norte

Ang PAGTENT sa Pagbuay sa mga Iginuhit Pangwika - Ika-37 Pambansang Dawang- Kapulongan sa Filipino
Teachers Camp, Baguio City
(until May 7)

MAY 5
Ilocos Sur Food Festival
Cafe Jeepney, InterContinental Manila
Makati City
(until May 31)

Trade & Food Fair with Philippine Fiesta Exhibit
Fil-Spa Resort, Los Baños, Laguna

MAY 6
Tinpakan Balagtasan
Municipal Hall, Poblacion, Hagonoy, Bulacan
4:00 pm

MAY 7
Lighthouse Exhibit with Performance
Calgaran de Oro

Area of Philippine Ballet Theater with Bangsa Moro Exhibit
Atrium, SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City
5:00pm

MAY 8
Art Deco Buildings in the Philippines Exhibit & Stamp Launch
Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati City
5:00 pm

MAY 9
Araneer Tosa
Bolsan
7:00 am

MAY 10
Leyte Heritage 2009 Opening: Heritage Mass in Palo Leyte featuring songs by the late Prof. Augelio El D'Mors by the Our Lord's Transfiguration Parish Choir

Cordillera Exhibit by the Tapao Brothers
SM City, Baguio City
11:00 am (until May 14)

MAY 11
Auction of Hand Painted Shells
Subasteras, Mansion
Makati City, Manila
6:00 pm

GSIS Museum
GSIS, Pasay City

MAY 12
19th Century Evening at Intramuros
Casa Blanca, Plaza San Luis
Intramuros, Manila

MAY 15
Sketches: Motifs & Patterns in Dress Design by Ben Farales
Tat Galleries, Metrostation Museum
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City
6:00 pm (until June 15)

Cumia Noon at Hyakyin: Kasaysayan Panuras ng Lalo Sandigan ng Mahalag na Kinalukasan
9:00 am

MAY14
Mga Dinihuang Ala ala ni Carolina Sumio at ng MET
Sangkalang Nicanor Abelardo
Cultural Center of the Philippines
(until May 15)

Seminar Workshop on History & Heritage
Davao, Bohol
(until May 15)

MAY 16
Filipiniana Exhibit by the Camera Club
Metrostar Museum, Manila
10:00 am

MAY 16
Philippine Youth Symphonic Band Concert
Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Makati City
7:00 pm

Parian Ham Kawar Concert
Binondo

Malabon City Tour

Declaration as National Historical Landmark & Installation of Historical Marker for the Church Complex of Dauis
Dauis, Bohol

Installation of Historical Markers for Punta Cruz Watchtower & Church of Manitoque
Bohol

Awarding of Recognition to Heritage Workers
Davao Convent

Publication & Launching of Textile Conservation & 75 Select Historic Preservation Legacies of the National Historical Institute

MAY 17
Art Deco Buildings in Manila Walking Tour
9:00 am

Launching of Traditional Kapampangan Folk Songs
Pamana Ancestral Home
San Fernando, Pampanga

Flag Day Celebration
Marcelo Agoncillo Historical Landmark
Taal, Batangas

Leyte Heritage 2009: Heritage Mass in Tacloban, Leyte with the Balarasayan Singers

MAY 18
Manilow Rondalla with Philippine Fiestas Exhibit
Manila City Museum
4:00 pm

The Philippine Opera Company with Filipiniana Exhibit by Pablo Tesoro
Rebolusyon Plaza, Ermita

International Museum Day 2009 (IMD 2009) Museums & Heritage Tourism
Lawag City

MAY 19
Dangal ng Lahi: National Artist Exhibit
Davao City

MAY 20
Visayan Love Songs with Banig Exhibit & Demo
Rizalista Makati
9:00 pm

Forum on the Centennial of the Laying of Cornerstone of the Philippine Legislative Building
National Museum, Manila

MAY 21
Filipiniana Exhibit by the Camera Club with Pintados Demo
Glorietta, Makati

Legacy: Portraits by Federico Aguas
GSIS the Outer Gallery, Metropolitan Museum, Manila
(until June 21)

Spanish-Colonial Bridges Exhibit
National Museum, Tagaytayan City, Bohol

American Colonial Bridges Exhibit
Gaming: Museo Ilocos Norte
Laoag City

International Museum Day 2009 (IMD 2009) Museum & Heritage Tourism
Batangas City

MAY 22
Revisiting Ruins: Tabueno
Ayala Museum, Makati City
9:30 am

Dangan ni Bantugan by the Philippine Ballet Theater with Bangsa Moro Exhibit
SM Cebu, Cebu City

Heritage in Barcelona
Casa Asia, Barcelona, Spain

MAY 23
Balagtasan
The Block, 3rd North EDSA
Quezon City
5:00 pm

Dangan ni Bantugan by the Philippine Ballet Theater
Dumaguete

Leyte Heritage 2009
Heritage Tour of Leyte
(Samar & Eastern Bohol)

MAY 24
Santa Cruzan
Bacolod

Leyte Heritage 2009: Heritage Mass in Tolosa, Leyte featuring the songs of the late Dr. Virginia Fuentes by the St. Michael Parish Choir

MAY 25
Dangan ni Bantugan by the Philippine Ballet Theater
Malasiqui, Pangasinan Province

International Museum Day 2009 (IMD 2009) Museum & Heritage Tourism
Baesilad City

MAY 26
Bayanihan National Dance Company with Spanish Colonial Bridges Exhibit
Mega Atrium, SM Megamall

MAY 27
Dangan ni Bantugan by the Philippine Ballet Theater
Iloilo City

MAY 28
Banda Kawayan & Las Pinas Pangkat Kawayan
Star Mall, Las Piñas City

MAY 29
Leyte Heritage 2009: Second Leyte Heritage Awards
Governors Hall, Leyte Provincial Capitol
Tacloban City

MAY 30
Leyte Heritage 2009: Opening of the Sto. Niño Icons Exhibit
Hotel Alejandro, Tacloban City
9:00 am

MAY 31
Dangan ni Bantugan by the Philippine Ballet Theater
Roxas City

Leyte Heritage 2009: Leyte-Samar Super Aunt Showcase
RTH Plaza, Tacloban City

OTHER ACTIVITIES
Remembering Rizal
Berlin, Germany

Ramon Tabuena Exhibit
Mexico

Baler 400
Orientation for Baler 400 to be attended by Deputy School Officials
Baler, Aurora

Cuisine of Baler
Makati Shangri-la

Kalahi Cultural Caregiving Workshops on Voice & Chorale
Baler, Aurora

Bird Watching & Mountain Climbing with the Camera Club of the Philippines & the UP Mountaineers
Baler, Aurora

Flora & Fauna of Baler, Aurora: A Botanical & Ethnographic Exhibition for Museo de Baler
Baler, Aurora

National Monument to the Heroes of Baler on National Historical Institute (announcement of winner)

For more information please contact the FHF Secretariat at
Tel: +632 552 0666
Email: heritagemonth@yahoo.com.ph
Visit our website: http://filipinoheritagefestival.com
We are located at: 12/F/20 Citywood IT Tower II, H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City

Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Iloilo special economic zone pushed

ILOILO CITY—ILOILO GOV. NIEL TUPAS SR. IS fully supporting a Senate bill establishing a special economic zone and free port in his province.

Senate Bill No. 3189, sponsored filed by Sen. Alfredo Drilon, on Sunday on April 20, seeks to create the economic zone in Iloilo, her home province.

The bill, titled "An Act Establishing a Special Economic Zone and Freeport in the Province of Iloilo," aims to "strengthen the economic potential" of Iloilo province.

"Expansion will create employment opportunity here, Santiago said Iloilo has a "strategic geographical location" and is, thus, "an attractive hub for investments."

Tupas said he only learned of the measure after he received an Wednesday notification from the senator concerned. Validity of a consultation with the public hearing on it at the Senate on Friday.

Due to the short notice, Tupas wrote Santiago that he was unable to attend the hearing. "Legislation for this, But as governor of Iloilo, I can tell you that our people are definitely enthusiastic about this Senate bill. It has our full support," he said in his letter.

The hearing was held jointly with the committees on local government, ways and means, and finance.

Tupas said the proposal would enable the province to enhance its ability to attract investments and bring huge investments.

Iloilo enjoys "natural strategic advantages" because it is in the central part of the country and "easily accessible to all points of the country and close to major international shipping lanes," he said.

The governor recalled that the Iloilo port used to be the second busiest at the turn of the 20th century, next only to Manila's. "It has a well-protected harbor, and its establishment as a free port will enable us to develop the port facilities to world-class standards."

He said the provincial government would submit a more detailed position paper in support of Senate Bill No. 3189.

He asked Santiago to include Iloilo City in the proposed special economic zone and free port and spoke to mayor a member of the port authority's board of directors.

"Iloilo City is the center of commerce, banking, government, education and transportation in the island of Panay. From a marketing point of view, manufacturers that would locate in Iloilo province can look at the five provinces (of Western Visayas region) as our immediate markets," Tupas said.

Tupas stressed that major industries in Aurora, Visayas and Mindanao can be reached by a combination of air, sea and land transportation because Iloilo is linked to the Strong Republic National Highway with its system of roll-on, roll-off port facilities.

Santiago said the special economic zone in Iloilo would address the situation of many jobs in Western Visayas because the standard of living of people there, as well as develop the province as a "center of commerce, if growth in the area." (Jerald Arnaz' Sloop, Inquirer Visayas with a report from Christine O. Avendaño in Manila)

PATTS College of Aeronautics
NO TUITION FEE INCREASE
C-to-C
Curriculum to Career
PROGRAM
guarantees employment to qualified graduates
www.pattscoll.ph
Courses Offered:
BS Aeronautical Engineering
BS Air Transportation
BS Aircraft Maintenance Technology
BS Avionics Technology
BS Tourism Management
BS Hotel and Restaurant Management
BS Airline Business Administration
Aircraft Technician Course
Graduates are invited to register at www.patts.edu.ph/alumni.php and be part of our C to C Network

PHILIPPINE Prudential Life INSURANCE COMPANY, INC.
Since 1963

TO OUR VALUED CLIENTS:

Lately, we have received a lot of calls from friends and our policyholders asking if Philippine Prudential Life Insurance Co. Inc. is the same company whose license to sell pre-need plans has been revoked by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Let me state it clearly:
PHILIPPINE PRUDENTIAL LIFE INSURANCE CO. INC. IS DIFFERENT FROM PRUDENTIALIFE PLANS, INC.

Don Daniel L. Mercado
Founder

Our company, Philippine Prudential Life Insurance Co. Inc was founded by the late Don Daniel L. Mercado in 1963. An all-Filipino **life insurance company**, it has been serving the life insurance needs of more than 1.3 million policyholders and their families with over P35 billion business in force for 46 years now.

Insurance companies are carefully regulated and closely supervised by the Insurance Commission with an established Insurance Code that safeguards the margin of insolvency, security fund, asset values and investment restrictions.

Furthermore, Philippine Prudential Life Insurance Company, Inc. was issued its Certificate of Authority # 2008/31-R last July 1, 2008, the first insurance company to have been issued a CA for the period.

So don't be BOTHERED with all the news! Just think of your family's welfare and don't lose this CHANCE of protecting and securing the future of your loved ones!

Sincerely,

GREGORIO D. MERCADO
President & CEO

For any queries, information or clarification, please call
7551567, 6388163, 6372612, and 7123756.

Supreme Court reviews DNA evidence, widow's fault in Bacolod suicide

BACOLOD CITY—THE SUPREME Court this week reviewed the way courts dealt with evidence, particularly the first application of DNA evidence in a 2000 trial, and the criminal liability of a suicide victim's widow who buried crime scene evidence in 2000.

In an April 16 resolution issued by its special second division, the high court affirmed the liability of a rape convict due to DNA that was retrieved using the 2000 procedures.

The second division also upheld a justice department ruling that cleared the widow of 28-year-old Bacolod businessman Hans Dietrich Aaron, who was charged with evidence tampering and particide when she buried the broken and bodies of her that would have established her husband's alleged suicide.

The bed covers were supposedly wrapped around Aaron's neck, but the widow, April, disposed of them, leading government prosecutors to assume that a murder was being covered up, according to the court.

But the court said the evidence was just not enough to detain April for parricide.

Plot

The second division informed that the collected had been murdering the case of Wilfrin Umanzin, who was convicted by a regional trial court in Bacolod, La Union, for rape in 1999.

Umanzin had apparently implanted his rape victim, and both the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals decided to jail on Umanzin some advances in DNA testing, which the SC had incorporated in a set of procedural guidelines for the case.

According to the ruling penned by Associate Justice Dante Tinga, the convicted rapist had questioned the paternity of his victim's child (who is now a teenager), and the court pursued the tests to clear up "many incongruous assertions of the prosecution and the defense."

The first DNA test, used in a trial, was considered in February 2008 by Bacolod Judge Ferdinand Sy, and was overseen by the National Bureau of Investigation and by Deputy Court Administrator Reuben de la Cruz.

The test proved that Umanzin had fathered the child, the court said.

The court approved Umanzin's petition to withdraw his appeal, which indicated, the original said, that he had accepted the conclusions and penalties imposed by the trial court and the appellate court.

On April 17, the court's special second division reversed the Court of Appeals' decision, which exonerated then acting Justice secretary Merceditas Gutierrez for "grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess jurisdiction" because she absolved in April 2002 Aaron and other suspects in the bisexual particide case.

In 2000, Aaron, a printing press owner, was robbed to the hospital where he expired allegedly from a hanging. He with April claimed that he had acted strangely after his mother's death.

Evidence

But prosecutors charged April, his cousins Gallardo and Buenaventura Gamboa, and printing press aide Benjie Abcie with conspiring to murder Aaron, because of the discrepant evidence and because three doctors had certified that it was physically impossible for the victim to hang himself using the bed covers.

Aaron's relatives pursued the charges because they claimed that April had a feud with her husband over money.

The government prosecutors alleged that the fact that April consistently opposed efforts to exhume Aaron's body for autopsy, and had even used his influence for proceeding with their examination.

According to the court, Gutierrez "reversed three investigating prosecutor's resolutions, because she believed the "suicide theory" ... but neither because she did not find sufficient evidence to sustain the theory of the prosecution of "conspiracy to commit murder."

It concluded that Gutierrez had not abused her authority because she indicated that evidence still cast doubts about a suicide. (Omar Krisdan Dongpo, with a report from Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Brooke's Point residents slam Ombudsman order

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—ABOUT 1,000 residents of Iglian in Palawan's southern municipality of Brooke's Point backed the barangay hall on Friday to protest the mayor's representatives from serving an Ombudsman order suspending their village executive.

They vowed to hold public vigils to protest the order slapped by the Ombudsman against Iglian barangay chair Jonathon Lagrada, who is heading the opposition to a large-scale nickel mining project of Australian Anglo Pacific Group.

"The people really won't allow the suspension and the serving of the order," said Mayor Cesario Benedicto.

The order was issued by the prosecutor in a swift move to resolve a complaint filed by Tan's Municipal Coop.

Before Lagrada assumed his local office, the barangay council had passed a resolution supporting the mining operation of Macroasia. When he became barangay chief, Lagrada did not recognize the council resolution and wanted to stop the mining operation.

This prompted Macroasia to file a case with the Ombudsman against Lagrada for abuse of authority and graft and corruption.

Interesting witnesses on Friday entered the sergeant body for "manifest partiality" in suspending Lagrada, claiming that the government prosecutor did not even want to let Macro file a counter-affidavit.

Lagrada's counsel, the Environmental Legal Assistance Center (Elac), said it received the subpoena from the Ombudsman only on Jan. 11 and was also surprised by the swift issuance of the suspension order on Feb. 15.

"We filed a counter-affidavit by Feb. 25, only to be shocked to learn that less than two weeks earlier, by Feb. 18, the Ombudsman had already issued a suspension order," Elac lawyer Dale Hamero said.

Brooke's Point Vice Mayor Jose Feliciano said Benedicto tried to act on the suspension order for Lagrada but was compelled to implement it after receiving a memorandum from the Department of the Interior and Local Government on March 17.

"We (Benedicto) was forced to serve the suspension order after he received the DILG memo. He didn't want to do it at first because it was apparent that the Ombudsman was acting with manifest partiality," Feliciano said.

Mayor's said a petition for reconsideration had been filed, pointing out the absence of a proper investigation in Macroasia's complaint.

His group also lambasted the Ombudsman for its "undue haste" in acting on Lagrada's case while failing to act on graft cases it had filed much earlier against top provincial officials in connection with other mining projects.

"We have filed a complaint against top provincial officials for issuing permits to mining projects in violation of the environmental law for Holcim as early as over a year ago. Up till now, even after the congressmen have already filed (a resolution) in Congress, the Ombudsman has yet to issue any order," Hamero said.

He pointed out that even Palawan Gov. Joel T. Reyes, who is facing several graft cases before the Ombudsman, filed for a motion in December last year seeking an immediate resolution of the pending cases.

Macroasia's complaint against an ordinary barangay captain has revoked the embarrassment attention from the Ombudsman," Mamero said.

Macroasia Corp., which is largely engaged in the utilities and property development business, has launched out into mining with a planned nickel ore direct shipment operations in Iglian, Brooke's Point. Rudy Rapiz Anda, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Central Visayas police orders stronger drive vs 'Swertres'

TAGBILARAN CITY—THE CENTRAL Visayas Police Regional Office (PRO-7) has ordered provincial commanders in the region to launch a campaign against illegal numbers game called "Swertres."

PRO-7 acting director Chief Supt. Federico Tello also warned on Thursday that he would remove from their posts the police officers who fail to stop the illegal numbers game.

Tello said Philippine National Police Director General Jesus Versosa visited Bohol Thursday to inaugurate the new police headquarters in Barangay Cogon and to attend the groundbreaking of the police headquarters in Buddhist town.

Tello said the PRO-7 would send a team to different provinces in the region to help enforce the anti-Swertres campaign.

The apprehension of two Swertres operators in the cities seen by Agoho is true from another town or city would mean the removal of the station commander, Tello said.

The relief of two police chiefs in a province would result in the removal of the provincial police director while the relief of three provincial directors would also mean that the regional director would be sired, Tello added.

He directed the provincial directors in Central Visayas to submit within the month an update on the anti-Swertres campaign.

Tello also directed the police chiefs to coordinate with local government officials to make the campaign against illegal gambling a priority in their respective localities.

He called on all sectors, including some members of the media who have been giving tips and results of "Swertres" over the radio programs, to help in the efforts to eradicate illegal gambling. Ed Bigatan, Inquirer Visayas

A LEFT side view of the ship-shaped monument built in honor of Spanish navigator and Augustinian friar Andres de Urdaneta in Urdaneta City, Pangasinan. LORRIE CAMARILLO

Monument, park honoring Spanish navigator opened

URDANETA CITY—THE MONUMENT AND park built to commemorate the 500th birth anniversary of Spanish navigator and Augustinian friar Andres de Urdaneta, after whom this city was named, was inaugurated on Saturday after almost 10 months of construction.

The ceremony was attended by Mayor Jose Miguel Sonnnaida of Dolinia, Spain, Urdaneta's birth place, National Artist for Architecture Bienvenido Santos Jr., and officials of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the local government.

"I feel very proud standing before the spectacular monument that we are unveiling today. But I also feel grateful and satisfied," Santamaria said.

"It was a brilliant dream (because) it took no means the result in our quest to celebrate the achievements of Andres de Urdaneta," he said.

The monument, which depicts Urdaneta holding a crucifix in his hand, was a collaboration of four national artists.

Napoleon Abueva (sculpture), sculptor-turned Urdaneta's actual bronze monument; Abdulmari Asia Imao (Grand arts), sculptural worked on the wooden boat replicating Urdaneta's original ship and on a mural depicting the life and time of the friar; Santos designed and landscaped the park; and Alejandro Roces (literature) wrote "An Ode to Andres de Urdaneta" which was translated in Filipino, Bicolano, Pangasinan and Ilocano and inscribed in granite panels at the monument's side.

Only Imao was able to make it to the inauguration. Imao was represented by his wife Grace.

Urdaneta, who was born in Ordizia in 1508, was a navigator and ordained before he became a priest. He became a celebrity when he discovered the Manila-Acapulco (Mexico) route, which was used in the galleon trade that brought Asian culture to Europe through Mexico.

Cecile Guidote Alvarez, NCCA executive director, said the monument was a "creative refusal" with four embossed scenes celebrating the friar's feats in Asia.

She said Santamaria had told her that it was the "best ever" monument of Urdaneta around the world.

"We will have a global attraction with it. It will be magnet for tourists, especially among Hispanic-heritage countries," Alvarez said.

Mayor Amadeo Perez Jr. thanked Santamaria for his generosity. He said his constituents felt proud to having the monumental built in this city.

Urdaneta forged sisterhood relations with Ordizia during Perez's visit to Spain in December 2007.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has issued Proclamation No. 1222 declaring 2008 the "Year of Urdaneta," in recognition of the friar's achievements and "his contributions to Philippine culture and history."

The proclamation also created the Urdaneta 500 Commission, which involves members of the private sector and headed by Fr. Heinz Golzsche. Gabriel Gershenson, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Displaced children get free ride

KADAYAWANAN, LANAO DEL NORTE—Some 75 children from the displaced families of Barangay Lapitayan, Tacub and Poblacion were given a free ride ordinarily reserved for carnival fun on Friday as the town celebrated its annual fiesta in honor of its patron saint San Vicente Ferrer.

The "Operation Libreng Sakay" was initiated by the 43rd Infantry Battalion of the army's 1st Infantry Brigade.

The children reached the right side of the military vehicle with "Samaan natin ang saya, Sama mo ang bata!" (We share what we are most overjoyed) and handed out flowers to soldiers.

As they reached the port area, the children crowded to a ferris gondola and called the municipal mayor, the same one whose fire evacuees escaped by nationalist bandits during an attack by Moro Islamic Liberation Front guerrillas in August last year.

Col. Jose Mina Jr., 43rd IB commander, said the activity was aimed at building confidence and good relations among communities affected by last year's conflict when the rogue Moro rebels attacked the villages of Lapitayan and Tacub.

"I was so touched by what the children saw in the sides of the two armored vehicles," said Angel Estrella, 28, who served as one of the guardians of the children. Rachel V. Uriel, Inquirer Mindanao

NCIP official bares sale of ancestral lands

Samar public school students to learn Spanish

TACLOBAN CITY—PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDents in a remote island-town of Samar may soon be greeting each other "Hola" (Hello!).

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus has tabbed the Tagapuro National High School (TNHS) and 16 other public schools in the country as pilot areas for the inclusion of Spanish in their curriculum beginning this June.

Tagapuro sits in the 3rd-best of the 24 towns of Samar. It is six hours by boat from the capital city of Catbalogan. It is a fifth-class town (annual income: P19 million-P20 million) with 14 villages and a population of more than 8,000.

In a phone interview on Thursday, TNHS principal Rodolfo Sanchez said the school might have been chosen because of its performance in last year's National Achievement Test (NAT). The TNHS topped the NAT among high schools in Eastern Visayas.

Sanchez also noted that learning Spanish might not be difficult for the students, considering that several old-timers in Tagapuro still speak the language.

"Of course, we are happy that our school was chosen," he said. The students are already excited, he said. "In fact, some of our students know some Spanish words which they have picked up from their elders."

Sanchez said two of his seven teachers, both teaching English, would undergo training on teaching Spanish.

He said the language course would be taught only to junior high school students, preferably those already proficient in English.

Joy Cabriga, Inquirer Visayas

SAMAH
It's planting season for many parts of the Cordillera, and for Bagao, this means ritual fear and a bounty of "tapuh" (rice wine).

3,000 flock to fair offering 6,000 jobs

BAGUIO CITY—MORE THAN 3,000 job-seekers flocked to the SM City Centrio here Friday to the hope of being hired by companies, which participated in the government-sponsored Jobs Bridging and Internship Program.

Elmer Timosa, director of the Technical Education Skills and Development Authority (Tesda) in Benguet, Mountain, said at least 48 private companies and 12 government agencies participated in the jobs fair, where 6,000 jobs were offered.

About 3,000 of the jobs offered were for employment abroad with nurses, caregivers, caregivers, electricians and welders as top categories.

Tabuena said a unique feature of the fair was the use of "paid cards," which contain the applicants' profile.

"The data are stored electronically and can be retrieved when the cards are swiped," he said.

Meanwhile, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration said it has disbursed close to P2 million in loan assistance to displaced overseas workers in the region.

Jim Lloyd Bartolome, OWWA-Cordillera Inc Boacher's Mendiano, said 34 beneficiaries have received P50,000 each in start-up capital for their businesses they were setting up.

Brenda Bream, 36, of Barangay district here, who lost her job in Taiwan in November last year, was among the first batch of OWWA loan recipients.

She said she would use the P50,000 loan she received to put up a retail store. Rhodora Arao, Inquirer Mindanao

6 ex-Magdalo men freed but sued

ANGELES CITY—A REGIONAL TRIAL Court judge on Saturday ordered the release of six former soldiers linked to the 2003 Oakwood mutiny after the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission and the Bureau of Immigration said there is evidence of their involvement in coup-related crimes.

Judge Marie Angelica Quiambao of RTC Branch 56 said former Navy personnel Bernard Caligan, Alexis Maza, Jose Alcazaren, Edward Abuan and Noel Ramos, and former Army soldier Norberto Gaoiran must be "released for further investigation," according to lawyer Supt. Herve Barcelo, city police chief.

The city police took custody of the former soldiers after they arrived on Thursday night at a firing range at the Clark Freeport.

Their lawyer, Dominico Argulles, took custody of them at 2:15 p.m. after Quiambao held a hearing and prosecutor Leo Habitan ended the inquest proceedings.

Quiambao was supposed to release a report on whether the complaint filed by the PAOCC and BI satisfied the provisions of the Human Security Act of 2007 (Republic Act No. 9372 or the Anti-Terror Law). According to a police source who asked not to be named for lack of authority to disclose details of the hearing.

In the complaint, the two agencies said the six were "honorably discharged" from military service.

A soldier who belongs to the Magdalo rebel faction said his former comrades joined the 2003 mutiny in Makati City.

Police and National Bureau of Investigation agents arrested them at an Eagle Ridge Barrio. The six claimed to be training for security work, police said.

Anthony Joseph Newman, a New Zealander who was also arrested, was not named in the complaint. The BI held him for overstaying or working without permit, Immigration spokesman Commissioner Enrique Manalo Jr. has said.

Calling on Saturday did not reply to a query if Newman was facing charges or if he had been released without charges. Jimarie Orijan, Inquirer Central Luzon

A Japanese quarantine officer monitors travelers with a thermographic device at an arrival gate at the Narita International Airport in Narita, Japan. The World Health Organization warned countries around the world to be on alert for any untreated flu outbreaks after a unique new swine flu virus was implicated in possibly dozens of deaths in North America. AP

Swine flu alarms world

From page A1

may have no natural immunity to. Health officials have found cases in Wisconsin, Kansas, Texas and Canada, and more suspected cases were reported to the region on Saturday alone.

Eleven cases of swine flu were confirmed in California, Texas and Kansas, with more suspected in New York City.

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Saturday asked all countries to step up reporting and surveillance of the disease, as airports around the world were screening travelers from Mexico for flu symptoms.

'Pandemic potential'

WHO Director General Margaret Chan said the outbreak of the novel influenza strain has "pandemic potential." But she said it is still too early to tell if it would become a pandemic.

WHO guidance calls for isolating the sick and disinfecting everyone around them with antiviral drugs, such as Tamiflu. Yet many patients have been identified in Mexico's teeming capital for such a solution now. But many pandemic flu experts say it's also too late to contain the disease to Mexico and the United States.

"Anything that would be about containing it right now would purely be a political move," said Michael Osterholm at the University of Minnesota.

Mexican authorities ordered nonessential workers in the capital and the state of Mexico and San Luis Potosi until May 6, and the Roman Catholic Church announced the cancellation of Sunday Masses in the region.

A team from the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has arrived in Mexico to help set up detection testing for the swine flu virus, something Mexico previously lacked.

Health authorities started noticing a threefold spike in flu cases in late March and early April, but then thought it was a late rebound in the December-February flu season.

Victims aged 20-40

Testing at domestic labs did not alert doctors to the new strain. Health Secretary José Córdova acknowledged Mexican labs lacked the necessary profiling data to detect the precise epidemiology.

The first death occurred in southern Oaxaca state on April 13, but Mexico didn't send the first of 14 throat samples to the CDC until April 18, around the same time it dispatched health teams to hospitals hosting the patients with severe flu to pursue cases like symptoms.

Those teams noticed something strange. The flu was killing people aged 20 to 40. Flu victims are usually either infants or the elderly. The Spanish flu pandemic, which killed at least 40 million people worldwide in 1918-19, also hit stouts other older healthy young adults.

Even though 130 labs detected the swine flu in California and Texas before Mexico confirmed cases internally, Mexican authorities are mostly to blame for saying they're trying to stem a late season flu.

But amid the mess Thursday, Mexico City Health Secretary Dr. Armando Ahued said officials got a call "from the United States and Canada, the most important laboratories in the field, telling us this was a new virus."

Children appear immune

Asked why there were so many deaths in Mexico, and none in the US, among the 151 cases Córdova noted that the flu victims involved children—who haven't been among the hard cases to fall into either.

"There are immune factors that are giving children some sort of defense, due to the only explanation we have," he said.

Another factor may be that some Mexican patients may have delayed seeking medical help too long, Cordova said.

Scientists have warned for years about the potential for a pandemic from viruses that migrate to mankind from humans and animals.

A "seed stock" genetically matched to the new swine flu virus has been created by the CDC, said Dr. Richard Besser, the agency's acting director. If foreign vaccine manufacturers can produce it in necessary amounts, the agency would start stockpiling it.

Global surveillance

Authorities in Europe and Asia ramped up surveillance for the deadly bug.

In Paris, French health authorities have found two suspected cases of swine flu in travellers returning from Mexico, General Health Director Didier Houssin told Le Parisien newspaper.

New Zealand's health ministry said Sunday 103 students who just returned from Mexico had tested positive for influenza. He said the cases are "likely" to be swine flu.

As Tokyo's Narita airport—among the world's busiest—braced for the virus a new no vaccine has yet been developed to fight it.

Kloza sought to assure consumers that food pork and pork products are safe.

"We have never had a swine flu outbreak in Japan, and the latest cases have stopped up now and then. This is why Japanese currently do not vaccinate against swine flu. But we are willing to vaccinate if it's really necessary," Kloza said.

He said there workers can successfully reach vendor flu from stock but are not known to pass on the infection to other people.

Other swine diseases have not been proven to jump from swine to humans.

Kloza recalled that the FMD outbreak in the 1990s did not affect humans, nor did the porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome that struck last year.

"So long as the swine flu virus does not evolve our country from outside, we don't have reason to be alarmed," Kloza said.

Philippine swine farms collectively have 13.9 million head raised for local consumption. The country has not started exporting pork.

LOVE IN THE TIME OF SWINE FLU A couple wearing masks kiss at the Historic Center in Mexico City, where an outbreak of the new swine flu virus has been reported. AP

DOH raises alert; DA bans pork imports from US, Mexico

From page A1

their mouths and noses when sneezing and to wash their hands, especially after shaking hands with other people.

"We did it precautionary. But we would you always advise someone if he or she has a cold or cough before leaving him or her on the church. The best way would be to stay," Tayag said.

Like ordinary flu

Tayag said the DOH has started monitoring cases of persons exhibiting flu-like symptoms in the wake of the World Health Organization warning against the transmission and incidence of the new swine flu virus.

"The symptoms are like those of the common flu. The difference is, there is still no vaccine that can cure swine variant flu virus," Tayag said.

Swine flu symptoms, like common flu, include fever, sore throat, sore muscles and diarrhea.

"The virus in the US results in a mild flu. There are no complications. The one in Mexico is much severe," Tayag said.

Tayag said the usual flu medicines such as the Tamiflu brand is administered to those with swine flu.

Appeal on blanket ban

Renato Kloza, chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry of Department of Agriculture is to declare from imposing a "blanket ban" on all imports from the United States and Illinois, only in states or regions affected.

Eleonora Dorinio Catbagan of the Bureau of Animal Industry said his office was encouraging farmers to vaccinate against swine flu as a precaution.

He said the virus that struck Mexico is similar to the strain that cropped up in isolated cases in the Philippines but had never resulted in an epidemic.

Local pork safe

Catbagan said local farmers had not contracted against swine flu because other diseases such as FMD, or foot and mouth disease, were more alarming.

"About one million doses of swine influenza vaccine are currently available," Catbagan said.

The DOH, however, pointed out that because the virus is new, no vaccine has yet been developed to fight it.

Kloza sought to assure consumers that local pork and pork products are safe.

"We have never had a swine flu outbreak in Japan, and the latest cases have stopped up now and then. This is why Japanese currently do not vaccinate against swine flu. But we are willing to vaccinate if it's really necessary," Kloza said.

He said there workers can successfully reach vendor flu from stock but are not known to pass on the infection to other people.

Other swine diseases have not been proven to jump from swine to humans.

Kloza recalled that the FMD outbreak in the 1990s did not affect humans, nor did the porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome that struck last year.

"So long as the swine flu virus does not evolve our country from outside, we don't have reason to be alarmed," Kloza said.

Philippine swine farms collectively have 13.9 million head raised for local consumption. The country has not started exporting pork.

IN THE KNOW

Some facts about swine flu

Q. WHAT IS SWINE FLU?

A. Swine flu is a highly contagious acute respiratory disease normally found in pigs. It spreads through mucus particles in the air or by direct contact. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), it tends to infect large numbers of a given pig population, killing between 1 and 4 percent of those affected. Not every animal is infected displays symptoms.

Q. Where do outbreaks occur?

A. Swine flu is considered endemic in the United States, and outbreaks in pigs have also been reported elsewhere in North America, South America, Europe, Africa and parts of eastern Asia.

Q. How do humans contract the virus?

A. People usually become infected through contact with pigs, though some cases of limited human-to-human transmission have been reported.

Q. Is it safe to eat pork products?

A. The WHO says properly handled and prepared pork products are safe to eat. The swine flu virus dies when cooked at temperatures of 160°F/70°C higher.

Q. How high is the risk of a pandemic?

A. Since the swine flu outbreaks in Mexico and the United States were identified, the risk of a pandemic has increased. Health officials worry the same flu might develop into a form easily spread among humans. To do this, it would combine with a human flu virus or mutate on its own into a transmissible form.

Experts worry that the more the virus circulates, the more likely a pandemic strain will emerge. But there is no way to predict when a pandemic strain will develop.

Q. Does a vaccine exist?

A. Pigs in North America are routinely vaccinated for swine flu, but no vaccine exists for humans. In any case, the flu virus evolves quickly, meaning that vaccines are soon obsolete.

Health officials say there is no suggestion that the vaccine prepared to be released flu will protect against swine flu.

While people who are given the seasonal flu vaccine will probably not be protected against swine flu, it may prevent them from getting the seasonal flu. If they are then infected with swine flu, that reduces the possibility of the two flus mixing in that person to create a potential pandemic strain.

Q. What other treatment is there?

A. The swine flu virus detected in Mexico and the United States appears to respond to treatment with antiviral medicines, including good hygiene, for example, regular hand-washing and staying a safe distance from those infected, anybody. AP

Respect mummies, Ibaloi descendants tell Pulag trekkers

From page A1

and should pay the "green fee" of P25.

The mayor said his town wanted climbers to be environment-friendly and to avoid destroying or disturbing the mountain's lakes and pine forests.

Pulag, known for its endemic plants and animal species, is the country's second highest peak at 2,930 meters.

To the Ibaloi and Kalanguya, the town's major tribes, the mountain is considered sacred since it served as home of the spirit of their dead ancestors and the playground of their gods.

Agalpon said the town is coordinating with the National Museum on the local government could adopt measures to secure the mummies from decay.

Eddie Dawes on the stealing of mummies, and cooperation and officials have to focus of the caves to stop the desecration of the mummies, the mayor said.

Taking pictures

"Visitors are allowed to take pictures of the mummies or to have their pictures taken with the mummies. But the mummies should not be touched, or brought out from their coffins," said Agalpon.

In 2006, eight mummies, which had been taken from Ibaloi burial caves here in the 1960s, were returned to the local government. Three were buried in a cave in Kiln Tinoc after a death ritual.

The most popular ancient burial sites of mummies here are found in Timbac, Ringao, Tinongbed, Kayapa and Opdas caves.

16 burial sites

The National Museum, in its earlier reports, said it had documented around 50 burial caves in this town but the 20 mummies it found were all in poor conditions.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) recently visited Kabayan to study the culture of the Ibaloi culture. And a ritual traditional practice of mummifying their dead and burning them in caves.

Mummification, where salt and herbs are used to preserve the body, began before the Spanish colonization, Unesco said.

It said the Kabayan mummy, Ibaloi caves, through Presidential Decree No. 374, were proclaimed Philippine national cultural treasures.

The mountainous trek to Pulag is divided into four packages, depending on the difficulty of the trail to reach the peak. These are the easiest trek Ambangeg-Babadak-Pulag trail, Akiki experience adventure trek (Akiki-Pulag trail), the more height-challenging Ambangeg-Pulag trail and the summit trail (Babadak-to-Tobar-like trail).

Singapore School Manila

OFFERS A NEW RANGE OF QUALIFICATIONS

Singapore School Manila has been awarded International Centre status by University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE). Singapore School Manila will now offer a range of internationally accepted qualifications including Cambridge's Checkpoint.

University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) is the world's largest provider of international qualifications for 14-19 year olds. CIE offers a broad range of qualifications, created for an international audience. CIE qualifications include Cambridge IGCSE and most renowned A/AS Level. CIE qualifications are taken in 150 countries and recognized by universities, educational providers and employers across the world.

Ann Portis, Chief Executive of University of Cambridge International Examinations, said: "We are delighted to announce that Singapore School Manila has become a registered Centre and look forward to a long and productive relationship which will be of great benefit to students throughout the region."

As a Cambridge International Centre, Singapore School Manila will offer students in the Philippines internationally renowned qualifications that are recognized by educational institutions and employers across the globe.

Xavier Tan, School Administrator, said "Singapore School Manila is proud to be associated with Cambridge as it enables us to extend our services and offer quality education to the local community."

For further information, contact Xavier Tan, School Administrator at the Annex at 633-85-11 (21) or 81-1011. You can also visit them at Lots 1 and 2, Block 3 Pueric de Magallanes, Makati City or visit their website at http://www.singaporeschoolmanila.com.

LATVIA'S MAN IN RP

Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Franklin Drilon (left) congratulates newly appointed Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Latvia to the Philippines Robert Lee Joseph. Latvia's honorary consulates since 1994, Joseph vowed to further strengthen ties between the two countries. He has proposed the appointment of three honorary consuls to represent Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao. CHINO NAVARRO

all-Out Sale!

Seat Sale fares on all Cebu Pacific destinations!

Sale Period: Apr. 25-30, 2009

Travel Period: Jun. 1 to Aug. 31, 2009

More than 500,000 seats available!

DOMESTIC SEAT SALE — GO LITE FARE

₱249	Manila to Busuanga, Cebu, Iloilo, Laoag, Legazpi, Naga or San Jose (Mindoro)
₱449	Manila to Bacolod, Caticlan (Boracay), Dumaguete, Kalibo, Puerto Princesa, Roxas, Tacloban, Tagbilaran, Tuguegarao, Calbayog, Calarman, Cauayan (Isabela) or Virac (NEW! Cebu to Bacolod, Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Caticlan (Boracay), Calabate, Dipolog, Dumaguete, General Santos, Iloilo, Puerto Princesa, Surigao, Tacloban, Zamboanga, Ozamiz, Siargao or Roxas (NEW! Davao to Zamboanga or Cagayan de Oro (NEW!
₱1,149	Manila to Davao Cebu to Clark, Davao or Legazpi (NEW! Davao to Iloilo
₱1,349	Manila to Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Calabate, Dipolog, General Santos or Zamboanga

INTERNATIONAL SEAT SALE — GO LITE FARE

₱599	Manila to Kota Kinabalu or Taipei Clark to Bangkok, Hong Kong, Macau or Singapore
₱1,099	Manila to Hong Kong or Macau
₱1,599	Manila to Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh or Singapore
₱2,299	Manila to Guangzhou, Jakarta or Shanghai Cebu to Hong Kong or Singapore
₱2,799	Manila to Kuala Lumpur or Incheon (NEW! Cebu to Busan or Incheon (NEW!

INTERNATIONAL SEAT SALE — GO FARE

₱2,999	Manila to Osaka

Quoted fares are one way and non-refundable. Limited availability.
Domestic fares are all-in. International fares are exclusive of government taxes.
Go Lite Fares are available upon booking for guests traveling without check-in baggage.
Add ₱200 to fare if traveling with check-in baggage.
Call (02) 70-20-888 in Manila, (032) 230-88-88 in Cebu or visit the travel agent near you.

CEBU PACIFIC AIR.COM

'Balangay' construction starts for sea adventure

From page A1

The First Philippine expedition team to Mexico officially embarked on Friday its latest venture—the ritual launch of the Balangay, "through the laying of the keel, wherein the first 6-m forward part of the boat is linked to the keel (the boat's spine). The age-old tradition, which signals the start of a boat's construction, invokes good fortune and safe voyages.

By adhering to ancient seafaring technology and nature-based navigational techniques—observing the migration of birds, location of the sun, the motion of the stars and patterns of clouds and waves—the team plans to sail along the migration routes of the Austronesian-speaking people using the balangay.

Replica

The balangay will be a replica of the 15-m boat excavated in Butuan, Agusan del Norte, in 1976. The boat was used by the early Filipinos for maritime trade and migration from mainland Asia to southern Islands.

Former President Fidel V. Ramos greeted the launch of the project which, he said, was full of symbolisms. "It showcases grit and determination, the never-say-die spirit of the Filipinos. This is a challenge to us, all of us are onboard the ship of the Republic of the Philippines and we must not allow that ship to sink," he said.

Art Valdez, Bonsai team leader and head of the Roxas Peace Foundation, said that after the launch, "our dedication begins."

"It's active humility that we see here and also boats in shows when we were just walking about. I feel proud," he said.

Tawi-Tawi boat builders

Valdez tapped Badjao boat builders from the islands of Sibutu and Simunjog in Tawi-Tawi to carry out the balangay.

The Voyage of the Balangay targeted to set sail on June 12, akin to coincide the Philippine nationhood commencement. (but was disrupted by Mororo accelerators.

At the same time, "it will put into correct perspective the image of the Badjaos, that they are great shipbuilders with great tradition and culture," Valdez said. "Their skills have been handed down through generations of master boat builders."

Cultural Center

Anyone is free to observe the boat's construction at the harbor side of the Cultural Center of the Philippines in Pasay City.

EPIC START Former President Fidel V. Ramos and Art Valdez of the Roxas Peace Foundation perform the ritual of the keel-laying signaling the start of construction of the "balangay" replica boat by Badjao carpenters. PHOTO BY NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

'BALANGAY' VOYAGE

Destinations	Distance (nautical miles)	Time (Hours & Minutes)	Days
Manila to Cebu	562.4	116.8	05
Cebu to Zamboanga City	412.6	68.2	02
Zamboanga City to Davao	349.0	137.3	07
TOTAL	1,324.0	408.7	111

Valdez said the cost of labor and materials for the boat would be about P2.5 million.

"I feel fulfilled and fulfilled that the boat was constructed in the ancient way and we are able to locate these things," Valdez told the Inquirer. "For me, it's worth all the effort."

Bert Santiago of the National Museum said that the skill-first construction uses a typical Southeast Asian technique, which involves first the keel, the stem and the planks before the ribs or the frame. The modern way employed by Europeans puts up the skeleton first (the keel and ribs) before the planks.

Guide

Santiago said the National Museum provided the botanics for the boat construction according to the excavated Butuan boats. "But it's only a guide. The Badjaos are making the boat from memory; they are working without a blueprint," he said.

The coordinator of the Badjao carpenters, retired colonel district supervisor Mayo Maborang, said the 15-meter by 5-meter boat (the same length of about four Roadrage cars) could be finished in 20 days. He said the wood used for the planks was called "lapayan" while the bow was fashioned from "dayo-ti."

Nature-based schedule

Maborang said that even the schedule in constructing the boat was nature-based. The team takes into consideration the weather and the shape of the moon to ensure that the boat will bring good luck and a prosperous voyage.

Philippine Maritime University professor Arlind Mayong, who is also working with the Badjao, proudly said that the team would not travel only and there would be no ins-outs in the boat. Even the tool used by boatmaking, the auger, which looked like an oversized hook-and-pin, is made from wood.

When finished, the Balangay will stay in every major port of the Philippines and Asia. Crew members plan to conduct coastal clean-ups and biomedical presentations and interact with the local communities to foster unity and promote tourism around the country.

Around the world

The expedition is projected to cover Southeast Asia by 2010, Micronesia and Madagascar by 2011, and navigate across the Pacific onward to the Atlantic, all the way around the world by 2012 and back to the Philippines in 2013.

The core of the Balangay crew will be made up of members of the Tawi-tawi Valdez, Leo Orosco, Bernie Ermita, Noelle Mercedes, Carlos Dayondon, Janet Belamonte-Sechrist, Jo Ted Esguerra, Rod Arnilt and Dr. Voltaire Velasco. The rest of the crew will be composed of nursery sailors, academicians and scientists.

Walter Bonded Agency Associates Inc., Tee Corp., Holcim Philippines, JobDirect, the Hotel Interstate and the OCP for supporting the project.

"It's every Filipino's project. It's universal and democratic. Everyone has a contribution to make," Ramos said in his inspirational talk. "Even at times of crisis, we can continue and experience which manifests our long struggle against colonialism. We've been through all that. I have no doubt that [this project] will succeed."

Valdez said the team would be guided by the principle of harmony with nature. Harmony with the boat and harmony with people. "Then we will be able to reach our destination," he said.

Defensor wants 'fair chance'

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S former chief of staff, Mikhael Defensor, yesterday said the perjury case he filed against Rodolfo "Jun" Lozada was not part of any campaign being waged against Lozada or behalf of the administration.

In a statement, Defensor asked Sr. Mary Johnchristine and her religious associates to give him "a fair chance" in pursuing the perjury case.

"I seeks to appeal on behalf of my family, especially my 10-year children who are presently in their elementary years," Defensor said.

"If you (Maxmaster's group) feel that the courts may not be the proper venue then tell me where I can seek the justice that all of us speak of," he said. "I am also a Catholic and I pray together with my family and I now enlisted justice or the support of the religious (because I entered this cause, in the name)."

"This is not a fight between Jun and the administration. It is something personal that I need to do not for myself but for my children who deserve better if Jun feels aggrieved, I also feel aggrieved."

Defensor said he pressed charges not to persecute Lozada but because "I have an effort someone to clear my name when he leaked me to kidnapping and the suppression of truth."

He said Lozada also "persecuted (me) an allow session of truth" but because the charge was based on inconsistencies in Lozada's statements to investigators and the court.

Nuns vow never to leave Lozada

From page A1

civil testimony at the Senate last year attempted efforts to bribe him in connection with the troubled $329-million National Broadband Network project with China's ZTE Corp., and his exposed abduction by government agents upon his return from Hong Kong before he testified at the Senate.

Defensor said Lozada committed perjury when he said that Defensor had asked him to deny he was kidnapped and deny knowledge about the NBN-ZTE deal.

No hiding

Lozada said his family said they had received death threats as a result of his exposé.

Maxmaster said she and two other ARB-IP members were always beside Lozada because he could be accused any time. But she stressed that Lozada had no intention to hide.

"He remains where he has always been," Maxmaster told the Inquirer, referring to his hide Grenadille, where Lozada has been staying with the La Salle brothers.

Maxmaster voiced surprise at a Manila court's decision denying a petition for preventive Hold for Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim that would have allowed Lim to take custody of Lozada once the arrest warrant was removed.

"They (court officials) are not even able to trust the mayor not to allow him to flee," Maxmaster said.

Maxmaster said Lim had given Lozada P6,000 for food, but the nun said Lozada would not spend but for needs.

"He (Lim) promised that he was willing so that the judicial process is not really fair to him. If he did seek legal remedies or file a motion for reconsideration, it would seem does he is playing along," she said.

Gap statement

Some day, Lozada and the AMMO many more attended Mass at the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Sampaloc, Manila, looking unprotected by the possibility that police

SAN SEBASTIAN COLLEGE-RECOLETOS
Manila
College of Law
"The New Manner in Legal Education"
Recoletos Law Center
Proudly Congratulates
JUDY A. LARDIZABAL
1st Place - 2008 Bar Examinations
San Sebastian College-Recoletos
VANESSA C. RAYMUNDO
10th Place - 2008 Bar Examinations
San Beda College

NEW SEBASTINIAN LAWYERS
(Partial list)

ABALOS, Mcdonald G.	CONDEZ, Dexter Jay A.	MARQUIÑO, John Mark C.
ABELITA, Peter Filip J.	CORPUZ, Christine C.	MARTIN, Edgar S.
ACMAD, John Allman C.	CORPUZ, Cynthia C.	MEDIANA-ARENAZA, Jocelyn B.
AGATEP JR., Orlino D.	CU, Meghan Chris D.	MOSQUEDA, Carmela F.
ALMARIO, Gilbert S.	DIANO, Catherine S.	MOLALES, Charisma L.
ANTONIO, Harold M.	DE JESUS, Michael Ron B.	ORDAS, Marlinda V.
BACOLOR, Heidi S.	DIÑAL, Jessie M.	PAGUIRIGAN, Domenzaac A.
BALTAR, Jonathan C.	DOMINGO, Joyce Felina B.	PALOMO, Aliane Arnett A.
BANIGUR, Leah B.	FELIPE, Jennifer D.	PANCHO, Freda S.
BARTOLOME, Harold Jan F.	FUENTEBELLA, Felix William B.	PARAGUAN, Karl Patrick M.
BELENA, Persephone Mae B.	GARCIA, Jesse James A.	REYES, Valerie Jill S.
BELIVES, Mae Nichelle B.	GONZALES, Lilibeth M.	RIDDLE, Nelson S.
BERNALES, JR., Marcial P.	GRIMALDO, Ivy Joy R.	RIBANTO, Chris Paulo R.
BESSAT, Madeleine A.	HINTABAN, Maria Fatima May Y.	SAGARBINIT, Kenneth C.
CALIRO-MACAPAGAL, Vivian B.	LABRAGA, Ma. Jennette G.	SANTIAGO, Michael M.
CAMACHO, Alex C.	LADERA, IV, Antonio E.	SINAO, Rosemarie B.
CANTEMBUHAN, Verna Joy J.	LARDIZABAL, Judy A. (1st Place)	SILVELA, Michael Philip B.
CARETO, Jose Ritchie O.	MACITAW, Hadwan B.	SYLVIA, Adrian Manuel P.
CARETO, JR., Flaviano O.	MALAPOTE, Paul Edgar S.	TECSON, Ferdinand C.
CARINGAL, Carlos M.	MALLARI, Karena Blanca R.	TELAN, Allison Jodi M.
CASTRO, Carmencita D.	MANIAGO, Mary Hazel C.	TEODORO, Therese T.
CASIANGA, Edelisa May M.	MARIANO, Emmanuel M.	TRIPOLI, Christopher P.

TRANSFEREES

Do you need another chance? Come to us. Even if others have rejected you. Even if they say you cannot become a lawyer. It is our duty to develop your potentials to be an exemplary, excellence driven future lawyer.

SCHOLARSHIPS

A. If you are a Law Graduate or an Graduate from Graduate program and is in the CPA, Medical, Nursing, Engineering and Criminology Board Examinations, you will enjoy a 100% tuition scholarship with free books. Already topnotch will be given corresponding cash prize/performance after the examinations.

B. If you are a Graduating Law Graduate applicant, you will enjoy a 100% tuition and miscellaneous fees scholarship, free books and a monthly stipend.

C. Freshmen who do not qualify in the above scholarships but obtained the first, second or third place in the entrance examinations shall receive the given scholarships and free books as stated enumerated in sections A to B.

For more details, call us at (02) 734-5377 / (02) 734-8031 to 38 local 332 and 334 or confirm at the Office of the Dean, Ground Floor, College of Law Building, San Sebastian College-Recoletos, Claro M. Recto Ave., Metro Manila

Testimonial dinner for new lawyers will be on April 29, 2009 at 6:00 P.M.
Venue: Casino Español, 405 T. M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila

Atty. WILLARD B. RIANO
Dean, College of Law

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Late SPORTS

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2009

Editor Tonipet G. Malasador
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Dolino
E-mail: pi_sports@inquirer.com.ph

SAMANGAT Ginebra import David Noel executes a comeback on the way to winning the PBA All-Star slam dunk contest. Noel beat rival import Gabe Freeman of San Miguel and Anthony Johnson of Sta. Lucia, before dominating Gabe Norwood in the finals.

PBA ALL-STARS

Noel, Yap top 'Skills'

By Mulong R. Castillo

IT HAD A SPRINKLING OF ALMOST EVERYthing—from the downright spectacular to the absolutely funny.

The centerpiece that took most of the 2009 PBA All-Star Week's Skills Challenge at the Araneta Coliseum yesterday even had a bonus for the fans.

Barangay Ginebra import David Noel nailed two perfect jams in his dunkoff with Gabe Norwood to win the second title, shortchanging the duo for come-up with traveling the US NCAA Slam Dunk championships while with North Carolina three years ago.

Noel finished off Norwood by coming up with a floor reverse move—a curveball and a reverse somersault—to start his second dunk, a emphatic two-handed jam off a 180-degree spin after getting a pass from Ginebra teammate Neil Arnaiz.

Knowing that he had no chance after that, Norwood did a pose customized of his own, got a pass from Ted Thoroughbred before stuffing the ball with two hands to provide the perfect comic relief to the well-applauded proceedings serving as appetizer to the Powerade/SP Team/PBA All-Star game.

Jared Dillinger tried clunking with boxing gloves after skipping down in a boxing outfit complete with "Pacman" labels. He missed three attempts and got a 25-foot-earned substitution from an audience that didn't get to see all that it wanted.

Mike "Bo" Cavalheiro, the three-time champion, missed making the dunkoff round against the hispanic Division champion after losing to Norwood in the all-Filipino elimination, scoring just 39 points despite two spectacular efforts.

Noel, on the other hand, got to the dunkoff against a Filipino even after two lukewarm efforts as Anthony Johnson of Sta. Lucia looked like he didn't have the time to try while Gabe Freeman of San Miguel muffled his two attempts in the second round he even trying.

Still, it was an encore worth everyone's while, as Noel provided the show-opener from here in the dunkoff before topping it off with a roundhouse off a 14-foot takeoff after him chanted for more.

Jayjay Yap of Purefoods won the Three-Point discussion for the first time, shooting 23 points in the finals to fend off Sweetbread homeboy of Purefoods and Barger King's Gary David.

Yap, the MVP two seasons ago, opened up the finals with a perfect rack before making the money balls in the next three to easily top the 21 points that Hombreras earned earlier.

David was not in it. After topping the elimination with 16 points, the Burger King ace didn't get anything to fall when it mattered, scoring only eight points in the finals.

The Purefoods gunslinger Yap had 17 points in the eliminations to qualify second, with Hombreras shooting 16 to bump off defending champion Red Bull.

MEDICard-SOLIDGROUP
Contract Signing

SOLIDGROUP, INC., recently signed its corporate healthcare agreement with MEDICard PHILIPPINES, INC. (Seated L-R) Ma. Monica Lanzon (Chief Accounting Officer), Ernesto Lee (SVP for Finance and Investments and Treasurer), Lourdes Fradejas (MEDICard's Sr. Vice President), Lee Montoya (EVP & COO, Marketing), Ali Francis Cancinilla (Assistant Vice President and Executive Assistant), Rose Lynn Chanliongco (Secretary and MEDICard's Vice President, Marketing Services), Teresa Cuaso (Vice President, Business Development), Jose Ignacio Torres (Chairman), Ma. Lourdes Reyes (Vice President, Operations), Jose Ignacio Chanliongco (President and CEO), Jose Joaquin Chanliongco (Treasurer

Aplus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Llanday

'San Mateo vulnerable to landslides'

Exploitation of natural resources may lead to disasters, group warns

By DJ Yap

ENVIRONMENTALISTS FROM SAN MATEO, RIZAL, HAVE WARNED THAT the continuing exploitation of the town's natural resources could lead to environmental disasters, considering its vulnerability to landslides and erosions.

In a statement, the People's Response for the Protection of the Environment of San Mateo (Protect San Mateo) said the provincial bureau of the town and nearby municipalities were in danger due to the operations of a concerned sanitary landfill and ongoing real estate development projects in the area.

It stated that the town was "naturally vulnerable to landslides and erosions," based on a study conducted by the University of the Philippines' National Institute of Geological Sciences following the disaster that

SAN MATEO, 6A

Fire hits restaurant in Makati mall; no one hurt

STILL OPEN FOR BUSINESS
Joaquin Crisostomo, 48, of Sampaloc, Manila, writes: "Attention, National Bureau of Investigation. Up to now, if you're observing, huge garbage(ng) bin(s) downtown or Quiapo at Recto. Please hurry(ng) bin(s) making(ng) downtown in Quiapo and Recto are still operating. Please pick(ed) up or(ne) na(k)abot(an) thos(e) mag(s)" (UNEDITED)

By Allison W. Lopez

A FIRE THAT STRUCK A RESTAURANT in a mall in Makati City caused panic among its customers the other night.

The blaze which hit the Sunstar restaurant in Power Plant Mall in Rockwell broke at around 7:30 p.m. Saturday, resulted only the fire alarm but took almost six hours to extinguish.

Damage to property was placed at around P100,000 since only the kitchen and ceiling of the restaurant were affected by the fire.

Two other establishments—Cafe Iconic Pizza Kitchen and G Classic Kitchen—suffered some damage after firefighters pumped water into their premises to prevent the fire from spreading.

Two persons were slightly hurt in the incident. Firefighter BFO3 Uncle Joseller Robin sustained a cut in the elbow while a cook from Sunstar Jane identified only as "Mika" had difficulty breathing after inhaling chemical fumes.

SFO1 Gerson Mercado of the Makati fire department said that based on their initial investigation, the fire started in the kitchen of the restaurant which is located on the mall's second floor.

Some workers, however, got into the mall's main door, causing smoke to come out of the exhaust windows. As a result, mall goers panicked and immediately left the establishment, Mercado added.

Firemen led by city fire department head, Chief Insp. Samuel Tadeo, said they found it hard to put out the fire immediately because they had to open the different sections of the main door.

Citizen's call

Dark alley due to busted lamppost in Quezon City

THERE is a busted/light post on Ligaya Street in Quezon City. I hope Meralco can install at least temporary posts in this alley because the restaurant here operates only until 11 p.m. After that, they shut off their lights, leaving the alley very dark and prone to criminal activities.
ADEL, 47, Marikina, Quezon City

Jeepneys the root cause of traffic in Manila

ONE THING I noticed about traffic here in Manila is that it is caused mostly by jeepneys who stop just about anywhere, most especially at the corners of streets that intersect EDSA. The MMDA has supposedly done something about this by putting up barriers but this does not stop the jeepneys from dropping off and picking up passengers in those areas. This slows the flow of traffic down which, in turn, causes a pileup. As for the traffic enforcers, they seem more concerned with cars violating the number coding policy than the jeepneys that are causing the traffic. I support jeepneys but the traffic situation needs to improve and the enforcers need to do their job.
BM, 24, Quezon City

Useless expansion project

AT LEAST planners, the road expansion on Ortigas Extension in Pasig is advantageous to motorists. A new drainage system is also being put in place. But months after the project began, posts belonging to the electric company and telecommunications firms remain in the middle of the thoroughfares, as a result, motorists are not benefiting from the road expansion project.
RALPH MICHAEL D.C. Pasig City

Vendors take over sidewalk in Sampaloc area

WET MARKET vendors are occupying the sidewalk on M. dela Fuente in Sampaloc (from Fajardo to Espeña). There are also pushcarts in the area, resulting in traffic.
ROLANDO LAUS, 47, Sampaloc

Sex maniac on the prowl

A WARNING to all women who frequently use the overpass at Green Valley, Valle Verde 1 in Barangay Ugong, Pasig City: Beware of a sex maniac preying on women in the area. Just recently, he victimized my girlfriend.
VBG, 24, Manila

Underutilized public infrastructure

HINDI maganda mabangga nang husto ang mga sasakyan, wasting street, sidewalk, etc. dahil lowkuan ng vendors. Please naman, ayusin (Pakiusap naman) ang vendors, walking streets and sidewalks are not fully utilized because these are occupied by vendors. Let's do something about this, please!
ANONIMO, P. DELA CRUZ, 58, Quezon City

Policemen tolerate errant PUV drivers in Divisoria

YOU KNOW why there's always traffic at this corner of Recto and Tabora Streets in Divisoria from 5 a.m. to 7 a.m.? Policemen allow drivers of public utility vehicles to pick up passengers in the area, in exchange for what? Mayor Lim, please check out the situation. Imbestigahin mo 'to!
JOEL RIVERA, 48, Tondo

Minors out on the streets at night in Makati City

ISN'T THERE an ordinance imposing a curfew on minors and teenagers in Makati City? There are a lot of children out on the streets at night in Sta. Cruz, La Paz, Carmona and Olympia.
P. REYES, 38, Makati City

Tricycles cause traffic on Commonwealth

ENOUGH DAW traffic down there so vehicles approach Commonwealth Avenue due to the San Antonio motorists which are parked on one side of the street. Can the Quezon City government give them a better terminal? Please check out the situation as soon as possible.
MARK, 29, BF Homes, Quezon City

PERFORMER WITH TWO FACES
The colorful mask of a performer from Pampanga, which is featuring the Caragan Festival at this year's Ahrens Festival, draws a lot of attention from onlookers. The festival is a gathering of the major festivals celebrated in the country's different provinces.

Thief who preyed on young boy falls

By Jeannette I. Andrade

NOT EVEN A 10-YEAR-OLD BOY was spared by a man who held up jeepney passengers in Manila on Saturday afternoon.

However, the thief, identified as Erick Villegas, a resident of Sampaloc, was arrested after he alighted from the jeepney by members of the Manila Police District who were on patrol.

Case investigator SPO2 Leo Marquez of the MPD Sampaloc Station 4 said the cell phone that Villegas took from the young boy was recovered as well as the other valuables he took from the remaining passengers.

Marquez said the robbery took place at around 3:30 p.m. Saturday.

Witnesses told the police that the jeepney was traveling on Solis Road in Sampaloc when Villegas pulled out a fan knife and told everyone to give him their money and other valuables.

He then pointed his knife at the young boy who immediately gave up his Nokia 6300 cell phone.

Marquez said that after collecting the passengers' money and valuables, Villegas jumped from the passenger jeepney.

Embarrassed by him, he was spotted and accosted by members of the MPD Station 4 who were patrolling the area in their police car.

At the police station, Villegas' victims filed a complaint against him, resulting in his arrest.

He was detained at the Sampaloc police station where he would be charged with robbery.

Manila residents can watch Pacman fight for free

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE MANILA CITY GOVERNMENT WILL open its sports complexes and covered courts to people who want to watch—free of charge—the May 3 boxer bonanza "pacific clash" Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao and Britain's Ricky "The Hitman" Hatton.

Mayor Alfredo Lim said he has ordered city administrator Jesse Mari Mamon and Fe de Guzman, his chief of staff, to facilitate the distribution of tickets to residents so that they could watch the much-awaited boxing match.

The fight, which will be beamed live via satellite from Las Vegas, Nevada, will be shown at the Ninoy Aquino Complex, the Old Pan Sports Complex, the manic covered court, the Emperan Sports Complex, the San Andres Sports Complex and the Tondo covered court.

Other venues may still be added to the list to accommodate Manila residents, Lim said.

He added that although the tickets may be given away free the names of the different sport complexes and covered courts airing the fight, there could be need in any of the venues on a first come, first serve basis.

At the same time, those who would not be able to get tickets to the match could still be accommodated in any of the venues, should there be space left over.

Lim said the city government would distribute the tickets to the different venues to ensure the safety of viewers.

NOT CAMERA-SHY
A boy waves into the camera as his parents wash clothes on a sidewalk, using water from a leaking pipe on Maceda Street in Quezon City.

FILM ABOUT CORRUPTION BATTLES IT OUT IN THE COMMERCIAL MARKET

'San Mateo vulnerable to landslides'

From page A23

struck the Quezon Hills subdivision in the southern town of Antipolo City in August 1998.

Dozens of people were killed while a number of others reported missing when a landslide toppled several houses in the Antipolo City subdivision which was built on a geologically risky area.

Protect San Mateo said that as early as 1997, a Department of Environment and Natural Resources Environment Impact Assessment Review Committee found out that 62 percent of a 677-hectare property in the town which was the site of a real estate project had "severe or very severe soil erosion."

Despite this, the DENR gave the project developers an environmental compliance certificate, it added.

In a conversation held last week in Barangay Banaba which was attended by around 500 residents, the group vowed to stop the exploitation of natural resources in San Mateo and neighboring towns.

At the same time, it urged the DENR to revoke the permit it had issued to San Mateo Sanitary Landfill Development Corp. (SMSLDC) which, the group said, had "committed crimes against the environment of San Mateo and the rest of Rizal."

SMSLDC is the operator of the controversial landfill, which according to environmentalists, is located inside a forest production area and adjacent to a forest preserved area.

DID YOU KNOW

BEIJING: Housing artifacts and documents about Makati's history, Mayor Jejomar Binay and Philippine Ambassador to China Francisco Fernando unveiled the Filipino Hall of Makati House (FHMH) on Friday.
CityNet, Binondo, Inquirer Research

MetroBriefs

Man shot dead in parking dispute

A MAN who wanted to park his 6-wheeler commercial vehicle was killed by a security guard in Las Piñas City the other day, Primarose Salita, 37, died on the way to the hospital after he was shot twice, said case investigator SPO1 Ernesto Calalay. Calalay said the guard, identified as Benjamin Rubiera, 45, immediately escaped after the shooting. Quoting witnesses, the investigator said Salita had just left his house in Phase 1, Barangay Manuyo at around 12:30 a.m. Saturday when he saw Rubiera, a stay-in watchman of a commercial establishment in the area. He said the victim accosted the watchman, leading to an argument between them. The guard, however, took out his 12 gauge shotgun and shot the victim twice at close range. Calalay said moments before the shooting, Salita got irked as the suspect after he refused him entry to the commercial area. "The victim apparently went back to his house to get something and wanted to leave his truck in the vicinity for a while. But the suspect said it is because he allowed to enter the area," Calalay said.
Marlon Ramos

Neighborhood toughie nabbed for killing man

A NEIGHBORHOOD toughie who sought treatment for injuries he suffered in a fight has been arrested for killing a man who came to the rescue of his son. Reports reaching the Quezon City Police District's Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit said Feldwynn Gamos was arrested last week while seeking treatment at the Brennan Wireless Hospital in Barangay Tandang Sora. Earlier, barangay watchmen received a tip that Gamos was at the hospital to have several cuts in his left cheek and right arm treated. They immediately went to the hospital and arrested him for killing Lizardo Cosico. The father of Cosico was stabbed dead by Llanes and several other men who had figured in a fight with the victim's son during a birthday party in Barangay Pasong Tamo last week.
Julie M. Aurelio

ICELAND'S Prime Minister Johanna Sigurdardottir holds a bouquet of roses following parliamentary elections in Reykjavik on April 25. AFP PHOTO

Leftists win Iceland election as crisis sinks conservatives

REYKJAVIK—ICELAND'S INTERIM LEFTIST government won a resounding victory in this weekend's general election as voters punished the conservatives they blame for the country's economic meltdown seven months ago.

The conservative Independence Party, in power for 18 years until it resigned in January amid massive protests over the financial crisis that brought Iceland to the brink of bankruptcy, posted its worst ever election score.

"We lost this time but we will win again later," party leader Bjarni Benediktsson said, conceding defeat having garnered just 23.6 percent of votes, far below the conservatives' previous all-time low of 27 percent in 1987.

Prime Minister Johanna Sigurdardottir of the pro-EU Social Democratic Party will now have to try to reach an agreement with her surprising coalition partners, the left Green Movement, on European Union membership.

The Social Democrats were credited with 30.3 percent of votes and the Left Greens with 21.7 percent, according to official estimates with 98 percent of ballots counted.

Those numbers would give the coalition an absolute majority of 32 percent, a first for a left-wing government.

The Independence Party was in power in the early 1990s when the financial markets were deregulated, and has been held accountable for the current crisis which has seen thousands of people lose their jobs and their savings.

Benediktsson admitted he got the voters' message.

"It has been clear that we have lost trust and we are just beginning to gain that back," he said.

Iceland was one of the most prosperous countries in the world until late last year, when the global financial crisis led to the collapse of its overheated financial sector and had a devastating impact.

The crisis had to take control of the country's three major banks in October, as the local currency, the Icelandic krona, lost 44 percent of its value.

Unemployment, which was virtually non-existent before the crisis, is expected to hit 10 percent by the end of this year as the economy shrinks by 10 percent, and inflation is currently hovering around 13 percent.

The country received a $2.1-billion (1.536-billion-euro) bailout from the International Monetary Fund in November, and some early signs of a recovery have been observed.

Sigurdardottir is a fierce advocate of joining the European Union quickly and adopting the euro, arguing that doing so would shelter the Nordic island nation of 320,000 people from global turbulence.

"If we apply immediately for EU membership we will be able to adopt the euro within four years," she said on Saturday before polls closed, adding that Iceland "already meets 90 to 95 percent of EU criteria." AFP

China, Taiwan pledge deeper ties

BEIJING—CITING A "RARE AND historic opportunity" envoys from China and Taiwan agreed on Sunday to promote mainland Chinese investment on the island, in the latest step forward in rapidly improving ties.

The agreement was reached in the eastern Chinese city of Nanjing between top negotiators meeting for the latest round of talks that have reversed six decades of hostility since a new government took office in Taipei last May.

A statement released after talks by Chiang Pin-kung, chief of Taiwan's quasi-official Straits Exchange Foundation, and his counterpart Chen Yunlin said mainland Chinese investment would close the two sides closer together.

"The two sides of the Taiwan strait favor a rare and historic opportunity" said their joint statement, published by Xinhua.

It pledged that the two sides would "actively encourage and promote mainland businesses to...invest in Taiwan to strengthen and deepen cross-strait industry cooperation and realize the normalization and systematization of cross-strait economic ties."

Taiwanese enterprises have invested huge sums in China over the years but mainland Chinese firms still cannot invest directly in the island without approval from Taiwan's government.

Taiwan, whose economy plunged into recession late last year, has been hastening various such reforms.

The joint statement said more investments in Taiwan would help businesses weather the global economic downturn.

It mentioned no specific measures, saying they would be worked out later.

But the agreement was the latest advance in a relationship that has improved since the election last year of the China-friendly Ma Ying-jeou as Taiwan's president.

Chen, who is president of China's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits, said the two sides would deepen economic ties across the Straits.

"The mainland will buy more products from Taiwan and send more tourists to the island, while encouraging more Taiwan enterprises to set up on the mainland to maintain stable development," Xinhua quoted him as saying.

The two sides still conduct relations through the semi-official bodies, a legacy of the long-time diplomatic entanglement. AFP

President Arroyo visits The Generics Pharmacy

PRESIDENT GLORIA Macapagal-Arroyo recently paid a visit to The Generics Pharmacy (TGP) Angeles branch along JP Laurel Street in San Miguel, Manila. The President, together with DOH Natural Drug Policy Officer-in-Charge Dr. Nicomedes Margarita Mejia-Villacorte (left), Phil. Int'l Trading Corp. (PITC) VP for Sales and Marketing Jun Cortez, [illegible] (from right), was personally welcomed by TGP president Theodore Chua and owner Dr. Ted Sy at the store. President Arroyo spent time chatting with the pharmacy's regular customers, including senior citizens, one of which is a local ambassador from a neighboring country. She also visited the generics convenience. Ambassador Thevata Nagi, some only 5% of

The WORLD

Lilia Lorena B. Dueza

N. Korea says it has restarted nuke work

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA—NORTH KOREA SAID that it has begun harvesting plutonium from spent fuel rods at its main nuclear plant to build up its atomic arsenal. The move, in defiance of tightening UN sanctions, threatened to further damage efforts to dismantle the communist nation's regime program.

"This will contribute to bolstering the nuclear deterrence for self-defense in every way to cope with the increasing military threats from hostile forces," the official Korean Central News Agency quoted a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesperson as saying on Saturday.

North Korea started out a nuclear war in 2006 and is thought to have enough weaponized plutonium to make more than half a dozen atomic bombs. Five nations—Russia, China, South Korea, Japan and the US—have been negotiating for years on dismantling the communist country, but North Korea has walked away from the talks.

Somewhat by surprise, the launch could not be independently verified, came just hours after the UN imposed new sanctions on chief North Korean companies in response to the country's controversial April 5 rocket launch.

North Korea says it sent a satellite into orbit as part of a peaceful bid to develop its space program. The UN Security Council called the rocket launch a violation of resolutions banning the North from missile-related activity, since the delivery systems for satellites and missiles are similar.

North Korea retaliated by quitting the disarmament talks and vowing to restart its atomic facilities. Last week, Pyongyang expelled international monitors from the main nuclear site in Yongbyon, north of the capital.

With eight of 11 steps toward disablement complete at Yongbyon, outside experts have said it could take months for the North to get the plant fully restarted.

Kim Sung-hwan, a professor at South's Dongguk University, called the newest move a bluff designed to pressure Washington into bilateral talks with Pyongyang outside of the six-party process.

Kim predicted the North will take further provocative steps as long as the US continues to ignore it.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, speaking in Hong Kong after South Korea's statement, said Washington hopes to resume talks with the communist country over its nuclear ambitions. AP

Among the many headlines
of meltdowns and uncertainties,
one "feel good" page
makes all the difference.

THE GROVE
by Rockwell

A clean break from all the anxieties.

The re-urban dwelling to turn a city green. Think of resort-inspired living complete with a waterfall, groves of trees, koi ponds, zen gardens, private plunge pools, miles of jogging paths, bike trails and more inspiring features. It's having a sure thing that's quite refreshing. From look, said Rockwell.

Call 703-0088 or go to www.e-rockwell.com. Visit our model unit at the Power Plant Mall.

Rockwell, Ortigas.

Ethiopia arrests 35 for coup plot

NAIROBI, KENYA—THE ETHIOPIAN GOVernment has arrested 35 people suspected of a coup attempt allegedly backed by an Ethiopian economist now teaching at a Pennsylvania university, a government spokesperson said on Saturday.

Government spokesperson Bereket Legesse said the group, which calls itself "Ginbot 15" after the date of controversial 2005 elections in Ethiopia, was led from the US by former opposition leader Berhanu Nega, who is an associate professor of economics at Bucknell University.

"It is the party led by Berhanu Nega," said Legesse. "If he comes to Ethiopia, we'll arrest him."

He said the alleged plotters were arrested on Friday.

Interviewed in Lewisburg, Berhanu, 51, said he had no role in organizing any coup attempt.

"I'm very suspicious that there was an attempt at all," he said. "This is not a government that has any credibility whatsoever in terms of telling the truth."

Berhanu was elected mayor of Addis Ababa in 2002 but was arrested afterward along with more than 100 other opposition politicians and stood trial for treason. He and the others were freed in 2007 in a pardon deal, the left Ethiopia after the trial.

"It became very clear immediately after our release that they will not at all tolerate any opposition, meaningful opposition," he said on Saturday.

Legesse said the charges have not been set and court proceedings will begin soon.

"They decided to change the government in an unconstitutional way," he said.

Asked if he considered violent regime change inevitable, Berhanu said he was still pushing for a peaceful, negotiated solution, but the Ethiopian government was showing "absolute intransigence."

"When the option becomes freedom [or] living in some sort of slavery, I have no doubt that people will fight for freedom," he said.

He did not deny raising money in the US for Ethiopian opposition groups.

"All opposition groups raise money in the US," he said.

He said he hoped the administration of President Barack Obama would realize it is "senseless" for the US to have any relationship with the Ethiopian regime. AP

Italian cruise ship fires at, repels pirates

NAIROBI—AN ITALIAN CRUISE SHIP deployed armed guards as it struck off the east African coast by mounting fire, a Kenyan maritime official said on Sunday.

"We hear it's a cruise ship," said Andrew Mwangura of the Mombasa-based East African Sea Farers Assistance Program. "If that is the case, then they are putting the lives of their passengers in danger by having weapons onboard."

Mwangura did not have more details on the ship.

Sea gangs have increased raids on ships passing through the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean since February when better weather allowed them to hijack more vessels and take more hostages despite foreign Navies patrolling off Somalia.

The London-based IMB watchdog said piracy incidents nearly doubled in the first quarter of 2009 almost entirely due to Somalia. There were 18 attacks off the Somali coast in March alone. Reuters

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Pacquiao hits 140 a week before fight/A30

SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Molmisa ● Assistant Editor Francis T. Ochoa

■ Lady Falcons outlast Lyceum /A31

MetroHome
Your blueprint to an easy and affordable housing loan.
Call 898-8585 or 898-8790 today.
www.metrobank.com.ph
BancNet
Metrobank
You're in good hands

Roach ends Peñalosa agony in 9th

Pacquiao comment on A30

Unbeaten Lopez overpowers Filipino champ

By Dennis Principe
Contributor

GEORGE PEÑALOSA suffered the first stoppage loss of his career yesterday, succumbing to an unbeaten WBO super bantamweight champion Juan Manuel Lopez after the ninth round of their fight at the Coliseum Rubén Rodríguez in Puerto Rico.

American warrior Freddie Roach supervised the protests of Peñalosa and stopped the coach during the break before the 10th round to spare the game but unchanged Filipino from the re-lentless barrage from the powerful Puerto Rican.

The 5-foot-stretched Lopez's unbeaten record to 25 while claiming Peñalosa as his 23rd victim inside the distance.

The 26-year-old Peñalosa, the reigning WBO bantamweight (118 lb) champion, saw his record drop to 34-1-2 with 26 KOs.

It was his second loss in the heavier 122-lb division after absorbing a unanimous decision from Mexico's Daniel Ponce de Leon in a 6-rounder in 2007.

Lopez, 25, went on to demolish De Leon in the first round of their rescheduling bout last year.

"I'm OK coach, I'm

QUBE S3 Notebook
www.buyqube.com
All In One Slim Touchscreen PC
Shuttle X50
Php 24,999.00
Starts at Php 24,999.00
www.buyqube.com

SUBASTAHAN SA TAG-INIT
MEGA-MANILA
MANDALUYONG
MARIKINA
QUEZON CITY
VALENZUELA
BATANGAS
CAVITE
VISAYAS
CEBU
ILOILO
MINDANAO
DAVAO
FOR DETAILS, CALL THE PROPERTY FORUM PHILS.
MONDAY TO SUNDAY, 7:00 AM TO 7:00 PM

Fuel up now
at select Petron stations in Metro Manila.
PETRON
CLEAN 10 PREMIUM
Green Blend

PBL-Pan Am Unity Cup

Stark	1	1
Magnolia	1	1
Ginebra	1	1
Barako	1	1
Pasay	1	1
Air21	1	1

TODAY'S PLAYDATES
(Mrt-Ambuklao)
7 p.m.—Pasay vs. Barako
(Subic)
No playdates

Fil-Am ace Timberlake keys Oracle's PBL bid

By Jeannica W. Pugo

ORACLE FRESHMODES HAROLD FELT THE absence of its top guard as FEATURE Glenn Timberlake took charge to keep the cadets on Texans on course.

Timberlake came up with an all-around game in his last two outings to help the Titans improve to 5-0 and climb the first PBL semifinal berth.

"He really stepped up," said Oracle coach Glenn Capacio of Timberlake, who earned Player of the Week honors in the PG Flex Unity Cup.

The Titans scrambled their winning streak without Mark Barroca, last conference's Finals MVP who left for the United States with four other Oracle players last week to join the national development team's training.

Timberlake, a former University of North Florida standout who knocked in 6 treys in three games, averaged 13.8 points, 8.3 rebounds, 2.3 assists and three steals in the last two games.

His six steals during Go Titans' triumph over the Grocery Hub Dashers, 70-72, last Saturday also matched the season record set by Gilbert's Brad Lee in the last conference.

The Titans pulled the 5-foot-9 Timberlake from the dispersal draft after his former team Toyota Otis filed a leave of absence.

Barroca, along with enforcer Ivan Sanchez like Bernard Addison Thomas, JR Crowding and PJ Ireland, will team the Titans' campaign for the rest of the elimination round.

Pacquiao hits 140 a week before fight

By Ray Loarca

HOLLYWOOD— WHILE WINDING DOWN his training on Saturday (Sunday in Manila), Manny Pacquiao took off his sweaty and shirt to flaunt his well-chiseled body and bulging muscles.

Then, while doing abdominal strengthening exercises, he flashed out: "Just I small at 140!"

Pacquiao actually doesn't look like somebody who can readily be swept aside by a big guy as like Ricky Hatton is.

Pacquiao, in fact, overpowered sparring partners Alfredo Rubinares and David Rodela in the two rounds he went in his finishing touch.

At it turned out, Pacquiao had already made the 140-pound limit for his light welterweight clash with Hatton a week before the weighted-in bout at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

"He didn't even need to diet," assistant trainer Jhonny Nonat said in Filipino. "Hard work in training kept his weight in check."

Nonat's observation was further supporting as another trainer Freddie Roach put Pacquiao's weight at around 133 on Thursday.

Based on Pacquiao's movements, however, his weight is likely to be less as he zooms and glides with power to match during his training session crowded by three-time former lightweight champ Edwin Rodriguez.

Mexican Olympic silver medalist Oscar Salazar, now a close pal of Pacquiao, was impressed.

"He (Manny) is very fast and strong," said Salazar in Filipino.

Matchmaker and Pacquiao confidant Fidel Salad added that Pacquiao seems to have gotten stronger than when he stopped Oscar De La Hoya to win his fifth belt Dec. 6.

Rodela, who was knocked down by a body blow from Pacquiao during sparring last week, also praised Pacquiao.

"Damn, he's too fast," said Rodela. "I was about to crash into each other he was gone."

Despite the betting odds piling up to the favor Pacquiao, however, reliance is the downside to complacency.

"I don't know why people feel are so much," said Pacquiao.

Pacquiao even likened the bout, a blockbuster with 16,000 tickets sold, to a coinflight.

"We both have spurs and guillow, so let's just wait and see," he said. Even Pacquiao willpossession Lucy Torres-Gomez blessed.

PACQUIAO: Too strong for sparmates.

EDITED: Jose Elias, the native Filipino that who fatal Ilocos Sur-bound last month, dropped by at MGM Grand on Saturday, with about to race shirt to get autograph from Pacquiao, with whom he once shirt to get autograph from Pacquiao, with whom he once shirt to get autograph from Pacquiao, with whom he once

Top bet Agra keeps Toby's U-18 crown

By Bernice S. Aseoro

TOP SEED JESSICA MARIE AGRA ON SHED Ilo Magsaysay, 6-1, 6-0, to keep the premier girls' 18 years-and-under crown yesterday in the Toby's Power Hammer Tennis Festival at the PhilSports Tennis Center.

The 17-year-old Agra held serve all throughout the match and capitalized on the unrattled Magsaysay's awkward serves to come to her second straight championship. It was her first local title this year, good for 120 local ranking points.

After downing a first-round bye, Agra also bested Maelle Bermudez, Louie Louise and Sharmin Gilmore. She next conquers in the Lucena Open two weeks from now.

Marian Jade Capadocia, meanwhile, edged two titles in the seeds-long tournament.

Capadocia first disposed of Angela Santiago, 6-1, 6-0, in the 14-under finals, and followed it up with a 6-4, 6-3 decision over Louise Lopez in the 16-under event.

Miss Baby said Wilde Rosecrist likewise lived up to their top billings but had to go through the wringer before topping the girls' 12-under and seniors 19 under divisions, respectively.

Baby landed a third set before turning back Antonette Eva, 6-3, 0-7, 10-7.

Rosecrist also dropped the second set but still prevailed in the best-of-three duration, 6-4, 3-6, 10-5, over Ellei Jane Bacon-Cruz.

Second pick Christine Sun Andrew dismantled the boys' 12-under championship, grabbing the title with a 6-1, 6-1 triumph over Rafe Dela Paz.

The same matches in the boys' 14-, 16- and 18-under were still being played at press time.

RISING Jane Laguilles of Adamson spikes one over Ateneo's Joy Cases and Mica Quilinguen on match point. ARNOLD ALMACEN

Lady Falcons edge Lyceum

By Cedelf Tupas

DEFENDING CHAMPION ADAMSON overcame a listless start to topple Lyceum, 25-27, 25-10, 19-25, 25-21, 15-13, yesterday and notch its second victory in the Shakey's V-League first conference at the PhilSports Arena (formerly The Arena) in San Juan.

The lady Falcons struggled for the second straight game without guest player Nerissa Bautista, but rallied through behind rookie Pauline Soriano, whose timely smacks helped erase a five-point deficit in the final set.

Falcon still having difficulty adjusting without Bautista's (and Adamson's usually Dindin Pontic after the Lady Falcons raised their record to 2-1. "The players look like they lack energy without Bautista."

In the second game, Sue Sebastian overpowered 16, Bautista, 25-12, 25-10, 25-17, to bring into the win column.

The Lady Stags, champions of the second conference last season, drew 20 hits from Thai import Amornrat Bunlue, who was named to the All-Tournament team after the game.

Other offense were Claudine Cruzin, vice president; Addie Oliver, secretary; Tess Rando, treasurer; Elizabeth Sumang, assistant; Judy Nimes Ortiga, handling concentrate chair; Marites Fortunato, membership committee chair; Lolla Jasmin Reyes, PRO; Farah Imperial, prizes committee head; and ex officio Rosy Ramos-Salas, Shawn R. Castillo.

Canlubang ladies open bid for WGAP repeat

CANLUBANG FAVORITES AN ALMOST intact lineup when it opens its campaign for a back-to-back championship in the 2009 Women's Golf Association of the Philippines (WGAP) circuit which tees off today at the Alabang Country Club.

The eight-leg series features 14 of the country's leading golf clubs, headed by Canlubang which outgunned host Mimosa last year to bag the title.

Racy Hurtarte, Florchelsea Miro and Liana de Guzman will be on hand to vie for Cinagold at the 6,400-yard Mt. Elena again, Tagaytay Highlands' Mitch Mark, Alabang, Mimosa, Valley, Manila Golf, Forest Hills, Riviera, Southwoods, Orchard, Philippine Navy and Agamlubbi.

Miro will be departed in Classes A, B and C with each squad allowed to field a maximum of 30 players in each division. The aggregate of best four scores under the Modified Stableford system will count for the team's score.

Penn Alabang De Castro will go to Forest Hills in Antipolo City on May 25.

Meanwhile, Bai Co was awakened yesterday in the event PGMP-Goldcrest Other offense were Claudine Cruzin, vice president; Addie Oliver, secretary; Tess Rando, treasurer; Elizabeth Sumang, assistant; Judy Nimes Ortiga, handling concentrate chair; Marites Fortunato, membership committee chair; Lolla Jasmin Reyes, PRO; Farah Imperial, prizes committee head; and ex officio Rosy Ramos-Salas, Shawn R. Castillo.

Sharks, Bulls score again; Cebu up

HANGA Sharks' Nino Rizon (66) scores for home in 4th Baseball Philippines Series the photo.

Despite the big opening inning by the Dolphins, the Redskins stayed alive and even threatened with a five-run splurge in the top of the eighth.

But the Dolphins mustered enough run support to withstand the Redskins' rally.

Ramon recorded pitching for its outstanding win over a team in the round, 13-1, a day earlier.

"We had good pitching rotation so far and everyone's hitting well," said team manager Randy Libo of the Series 2 champion Bulls.

The Sharks-Dolphins matchup also pitched the first four innings for the Bulls, giving up six hits and two runs. Randy de Leon took over in the fifth to lose 21-year-old Marlyson Epala finished off the Tigers in the last two innings.

With the score tied at 3-all and with two outs in the ninth inning, Jesse Vayo-Ateneo of Batangas walked, moved to second after Jessie singled down second baseman Odie Cedo-Ramon singled.

Junjun Pinero made it 5-3 for the Bulls in the next inning, sending home Miguel Zulueta with a double.

Manila scored all its runs in a three-inning stretch from the fourth. Leading 4-1, the Dolphins struck for five runs in the sixth with Pedro Dimaculangan driving home two in finishing with three RBIs for the game.

HAVE IT DONE BY THE HAIR DOCTOR WHO DOES THE MOST

Don't settle for second best! Make the right choice. Come see Beverly Hills Assisted Hair Transplant Specialist, Dr. Andrew G. Pineda "the hair doc" for a thorough one on one consultation about your hairloss concerns.

At pinedahair you will experience the latest in hair transplantation techniques.

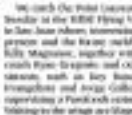
Dr. Andrew Pineda will be in Davao on April 28 to 29, 2009. Call 221 2682 now for consultation.

MAKATI: Medical Towers I Makati Avenue 812, Rufino Street (02) 813 0801

DAVAO: Victoria Arcadia, 2nd Floor Elizabeth Street, Davao City (082) 221 2682

www.pinedahair.com

Magsanoc, three points!



Tagaytay Workshops

MAY 17-22, 2009
Venue: Development Academy of the Philippines
INTENSIVE ONE WEEK HANDS-ON, LIVE-IN

Cinematography "Magic of Light for Movies"
Rap Jacob

Scriptwriting "Writing for Movies that Sell"
Ricky Lee

Basic Photography "Photography is Beyond Digital"
Joey Tuason

Advanced Photography "Capturing Glamour"
Ms. Venus Raj / Jonathan Cruz

Tweaking Your Photos Fantastic
Jay Dagpin

Innovative Corporate Presentation
Rick Olanolan

Newsletter Design "Smashing Design"
Randy Java

Events as Tool for Promotions
Tess Jose

Basic Animation and Character Design
Albert Tiburcio

Corporate Communication and Crisis PR
Ray Rima / Gen Abi Bobier

For Inquiries call, Tagaytay Secretariat Address:
Silver Mansion 1113 Pedro Marcelino, C. Palanca St., Legaspi Village, Makati
PHONE & FAX: (632) 8924457 Look for JING (0919 6410352)

Coca-Cola

Summit Point Invt'l dangles prize bonanza

SPORTS

Quiet role suits Yao just fine

HOUSTON—YAO MING HAS TAKEN ONLY 13 shots in the last two games of the Houston Rockets' NBA playoffs series against the Portland Trail Blazers. That's OK with him.

The Trail Blazers have shut down the Rockets' 7-foot-6 center with aggressive double-teams and physical play, but they still trail the series, 2-1, heading into Game 4 on Sunday in Houston.

Yao was limited to seven points on 2-for-7 shooting in Game 3, but Luis Scola scored 19, Dikembe Mutombo added 15 and Houston won, 86-83. He scored only 11 in Game 2 and the Rockets still nearly rallied before losing, 107-103.

"We have a lot of weapons," said Yao, who averaged 19.7 points during the regular season. "Actually, I'm not very frustrated. I have not counted the damage I did in the first game, but I think I have still helped the team win. That's the only thing I care about."

Portland also held Yao to just six points in Game 3, but Coach Landry Fields still has faith in Yao finishing the Blazers feeling as if they let a big opponent slip away.

"Yao and Ron don't even score in close. He figures and they win the game," said Brandon Roy. "They made some good adjustments, some guys came off the bench and played well. We felt like we did a good job of taking away the two guys, and their other guys got it going." AP

NOT DASHBOARD
OVERSTRAINS YOUR ENGINE
DAVANTED

Mavs, Lakers go up, 3-1

MILAN Heat forward Udonis Haslem dunks over Hawks' Josh Smith during a playoff game against the Atlanta Hawks.

Heat clip Hawks' wings

DALLAS—A SPECTACULAR HALF and a late surge by Tony Parker couldn't save the San Antonio Spurs from their brink of elimination as the Dallas Mavericks won, 99-90, for a 3-1 lead in their NBA playoffs series on Saturday.

Josh Howard scored 20 points, seven in an early second-half spurt that put the Mavericks ahead to stay.

Parker had 31 of his 45 points by halftime, matching George Gervin's team playoff record for points in a half.

"They have a lot more weapons than us," Parker told reporters after the game.

Without an incredible comeback on Tuesday in San Antonio, the Spurs will be eliminated in the first round of the playoffs for the first time since 2000. They have been in every postseason since and won three NBA titles.

After Parker and Duncan, with 25 points and 10 rebounds, helped push the Spurs to a 55-51 halftime lead, Howard hit a 3-pointer to open the second half. By the time Howard made another three minutes later, after Jason Kidd hit one, Dallas led 64-58.

"I'm really pleased we won, because it was go-check-time the way they finished the first half," said Dallas coach Rick Carlisle.

"It was a collective effort," said Howard.

"Our focus is try to obviously limit Dirk and Jason Terry and overall, we're doing a good job on that. It's the other guys who are hurting us."

Dirk Nowitzki was held to 12 points, but had 13 rebounds. Super sub Terry, recently named the top Sixth Man of the Year, was limited to 10. Spurs from Howard, Nowitzki and Terry, two more Mavericks scored in double figures with Kidd scoring 17 and Erick Dampier adding 10.

In New Orleans, Chris Paul played so hard and long as needed to give the Hornets a desperately needed victory.

Paul had 32 points and 12 assists in 46 minutes, helping New Orleans to a 95-93 triumph that ran Denver's lead in the first-round series to 2-1.

Carmelo Anthony scored 29 points for Denver, but missed a jumper that could have put the Nuggets in the lead with under five seconds left. James Posey, playing with a sprained knee, corralled the rebound. Game 4 is on Monday.

New Orleans' David West had 19 points and nine rebounds before fouling out in the final minute. Rasual Butler scored 17 points and Posey had 13 points and nine rebounds, none bigger than his foul with 3.2 seconds left.

In Miami, Dwyane Wade finished with 20 points and eight assists, and Jermaine O'Neal added 22 points and 10 rebounds in the heat concealed the Atlanta Hawks' decade-plus road playoff drought by hammering out a 107-78 rout to lead their series 2-1.

It was over early: Atlanta missed 17 of its first 19 shots, and a 25-6 Heat run to end the first half pushed their lead to 58-29.

The Heat host Game 4 on Monday.

In Salt Lake City, Kobe Bryant followed his seven-shooting game in years by scoring 36 points to lead Los Angeles over Utah, 108-94, for a 3-1 series advantage.

Bryant, who was 16-for-24, scored his league-first 11 points and once his teammates joined in, the Lakers overwhelmed the Jazz and moved within one game of advancing to the second round.

Lamar Odom had 18 points and 13 rebounds and Pau Gasol added 13 points for the Lakers, who host Game 5 on Monday.

Deron Williams had 23 points and 11 assists and Carlos Boozer also scored 23 and pulled down 16 rebounds for Utah. AP, Reuters

PLAYOFFS
INQUIRER SPORTS
Get a chance to win special NBA items!
Who is the No. 1 seed of the Eastern Conference in NBA Playoffs 2008?
Answer: _____
Name: _____ Age: ____
Address: _____
Contact Nos.: _____
Email address: _____
Signature: _____
Mechanics
For more information about the NBA Playoffs, please log onto www.NBA.com/NBA Playoffs 2008 is LIVE on Basketball TV, Cut & Score and Star Sports.

BAHRAIN GP

Toyota eyes breakthrough win

SAKHIR, BAHRAIN—FORMULA one could be set for another team's breakthrough win after Toyota claimed the top two grid slots in Saturday's qualifying for the Bahrain Grand Prix.

Jarno Trulli set a time of 1 minute, 33.454 seconds at the Sakhir circuit for only the fourth pole of his 132-race career. It was the third for Toyota in the team's eighth year in F1, and the first in four years. Teammate Timo Glock was second.

Toyota, which has never won a race, will be looking to match the effort of Jacques Villeneuve at Jerez last week, when Sebastian Vettel gave the team its first ever win. Vettel qualified third for Sunday's race.

"It's really nice to be first and second, for the team," Trulli said.

Trulli had problems with his brakes during qualifying, and said he expects to go even faster Sunday if the problem gets fixed.

"I'm confident for tomorrow because our race pace has been good this weekend and we've been looking after the tires well," Trulli said. "I'd like to dominate this pole lords we say races, who have worked so hard, and to the people of my home region Abruzzo, who suffered a disastrous earthquake last month."

Championship leader Jenson Button of Britain will start from fourth on the grid, ahead of world champion and fellow Englishman Lewis Hamilton of McLaren. Ferrari's Hubren Barrichello is sixth.

Renault's Fernando Alonso and Ferrari's Felipe Massa fill out the top eight, with Vettel working to score at least a point to earn bragging off to the team's worst start to an F1 season. AP

TOYOTA Formula One driver Jarno Trulli of Italy negotiates a turn on the way to grabbing pole position.

Manchester United rallies past Spurs

LONDON—MANCHESTER UNITED maintained its title-charge Saturday by beating Tottenham 3-2 after a remarkable second-half comeback wiped out the visitors' two-goal advantage.

Darren Bent and Luka Modric put Spurs in control before halftime, but Cristiano Ronaldo and Wayne Rooney each scored twice before Dimitar Berbatov grabbed a fifth to keep the defending champions three points clear at the top of the Premier League.

"It was a brilliant comeback...the first half we played too slowly and Tottenham caused us problems on the right hand side," Rooney said. "Now we're obviously in a great position."

Spurs were furious that Ronaldo was able to start the fightback from the penalty spot in the 57th. Goalkeeper Heurelho Gomes was penalized for fouling down-lifeboat Carrick, despite protests that he touched the ball first.

"I think we were a bit fortunate," said United manager Alex Ferguson, who pointed out that Spurs manager Harry Redknapp was in Old Trafford with Portsmouth last season after a controversial penalty.

The 27-time English champions have a game in hand over Liverpool, which won, 3-1, at 19-man Hull as Rob Kurt scored twice on his 18th appearance. AP

Cembrano, Flores rule Valley golf

ANTIPOLO—ANTONIO CEMBRANO and Dennis Flores combined for 140 points over two rounds last week to emerge as the overall champion in the Don Celso Tuason Memorial tournament at Valley's South and Executive courses.

The duo amassed 140 points for each day under the Modified Stableford method of scoring to best the team of Emmanuel Espiritu and Antonio Alberto Sy a one-hundred-seven shots.

Runner-ups Abe Layug and partner Park Jung-soo tallied 2205 points to run away with the low gross title in the annual member-guest event that featured a total of 630 players and which was run by club manager Bong Vilches.

The tournament, backed by Smart, Unilab, Pagcor and Asiaworx, also showcased the club champion that is undergoing massive renovation and a 18-hole expansion of a 108-million project being undertaken by the club's board.

The founding of Valley Golf's president has elevated Rembert.

The members of Valley's board who are spearheading the various projects are Jose C. Sandoval, president; Bernie Cruz, vice president; Perla Bautista and Bobby Tuason, treasurer and assistant treasurer, respectively; Luz Gonzales, Teodoro Dayo, Tony Bagsakan, Boy Jose Pedro and Mel Bonaco are the other directors.

IN THIS ISSUE
- SM Investment bond offer gets triple-A rating /B4
- BSP says banks improved ability to cover risks /B10

Editor Raul D. Morales • Assistant Editor Connie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

Meralco to boost 'clean energy' portfolio

Eyes 2 methane gas projects

By Amy R. Remo

MANILA ELECTRIC CO., THE country's biggest power distributor, is expanding its clean and renewable energy portfolio as it plans to source electricity from two more methane gas-recovery projects.

In a briefing last week, Meralco president Jose P. de Jesus said that a local firm... Manila Methane Power Corp., (MMPC)... has on the pipeline two more renewable energy projects in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, and Malolos.

Once completed, these projects will operate similarly as MMPC's Rizal plant, which recovers "harmful methane gas from the Rodriguez garbage dumpsite to generate electricity."

"These are good sources. We will start drawing from them since the Energy Regulatory Commission approves the rates," De Jesus said.

Similar to its current contract with MMPC, De Jesus said Meralco was planning to draw electricity from the plants during peak hours on a take-and-pay arrangement.

Recently, Meralco signed a contract with MMPC that would allow the utility firm to source as much as 6 megawatts (MW) of clean energy.

Currently, MMPC operates nine renewable energy-generating sets, which can add a total of 8.19 megawatts to Luzon's generation supply.

According to Morales, the contract with MMPC would allow it "to increase its capacity and alleviate global warming through the reduction of carbon emissions during electricity generation."

In an earlier interview, Meralco legal counsel Jose Ronald Valles said the current contract would also allow the distribution

MERALCO/B4

Cautious trading seen

LOCAL STOCKS ARE SEEN TRADING WITH caution this week as financial markets await the diagnosis on the health of battered American banks.

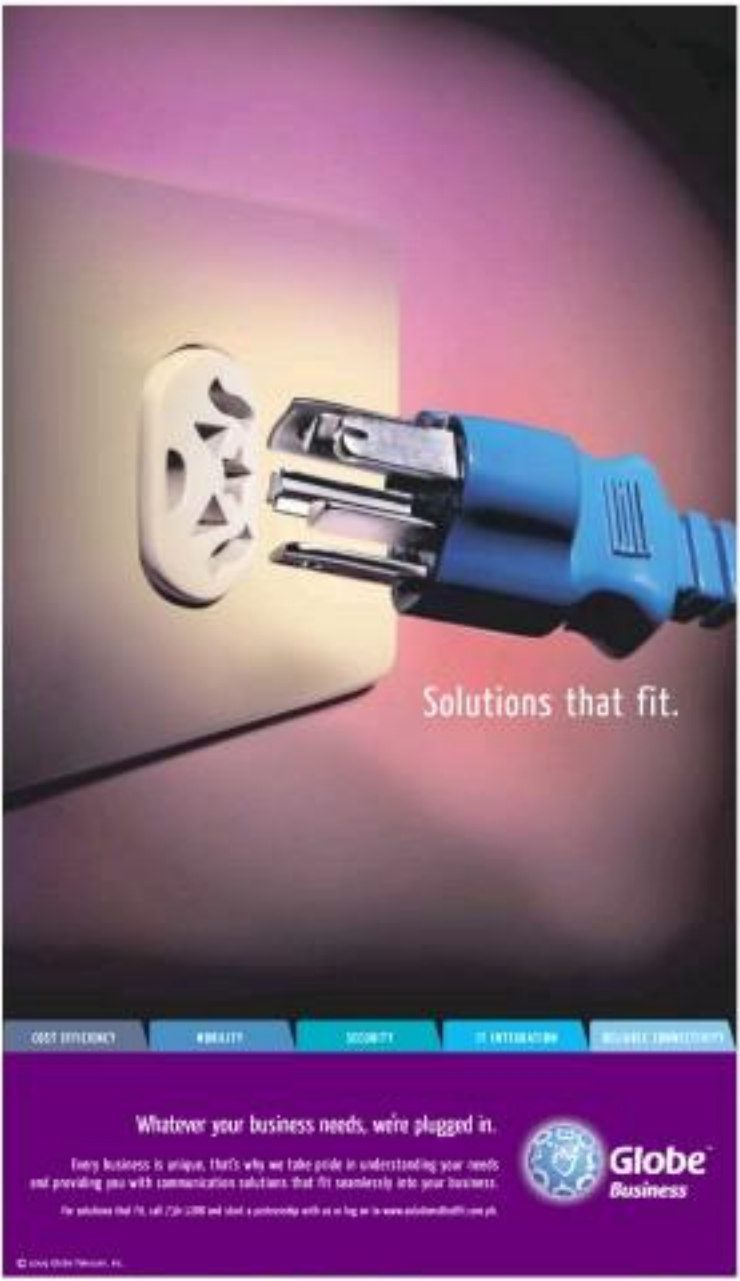
The major index of Philippine Stock Exchange index rose up 5.05 percent last week to close at 2,130.83.

"Looking ahead, we may see market momentum slowing as investors await the release of the US Treasury's stress test on major US banks on May 4," BPI Securities said in its research note.

Last week, BPI Securities said investors are cautiously enough good and bad news, focusing mostly on the US banking sector.

"Positive statements by Treasury Secretary Geithner had initially lifted the market. Unfor-

CAUTIOUS/B7



For advertisers, inquire about the JobMarket package at (02) 8896 8888 loc 314.

CANADIAN GATEWAY
IMMIGRATION CONSULTANTS INC.
IMMIGRATION TO CANADA
Canadian Gateway specializes in Canadian migration programs for business owners and managers of small and large companies. Provincial Nominee Programs require no investment, no employment with no conditions on permanent resident visa.
Canadian Immigration Programs Qualification
Provincial Nominee
- 2 yrs of Management experience
- Under 50 years of age
- Net Worth: $150,000
Immigrant Investor
- 2 yrs of Management experience
- Net Worth: $600,000
- Low guarantee investment
Federal Skilled Workers Priority Occupation List
Head Nurses, Child Care Workers and Supervisors, University Professors, Electricians, Managers in Finance, Restaurant, and more!
OR have Arranged Employment Opinion (ASD)
FREE CONSULTATION
by government approved immigration consultant (CIC)
Since 1991 the principals of Canadian Gateway have helped thousands of families immigrate to Canada. We have offices in Canada, Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand providing professional and reliable immigration consulting services.
* NOT A RECRUITMENT AGENCY *
Please contact our Manila Office at
635-5473 ~ 75
www.canadiangateway.ph
UNIT 2101 Galleria Corporate Ctr. EDSA Cor. Ortigas Ave. Q.C. 1110
(A Canadian Society of Immigration Consultants Member)

L, U or V?

TRUE TO FORM, ECONOMISTS CAN'T agree on the likely shape of the recovery from the current global economic downturn precipitated by the US financial meltdown. The more pessimistic see an L-shaped trend, implying that the world economy will be lingering at the bottom for a long time. The more sanguine see just a year or two or more of difficulties, but a strong rebound thereafter—a U-shaped trajectory for economic output. The most optimistic see an immediate bounce back, with the graph looking like a V. The proponents of each scenario all sound convincing when they explain their respective reasons why they expect it to be L, U or V. What they are ultimately projecting is the pace of recovery in the US economy, on which hinges the recovery of the rest of the global economy. So which prognosis are we to believe?

Decoupling

The debate comes in the midst of reports of business and economic news that have been called "green shoots" (as in the first emerging plant shoots of spring) by US Fed Chair Ben Bernanke and "glimmers of hope" by President Barack Obama. But these mostly refer to data indicating that the rate of decline in certain economic indicators has been slowing—but they exclude falling somersaults. Also alluded to are recent announcements by some large US banks of positive net income in the first quarter, but which were quickly dismissed by observers to be the result of accounting sorcery.

Closer to home, the news hasn't been quite as bleak, except in export- and financial-sector dependent economies like Japan, Singapore and Thailand, which is also troubled by political turmoil at this time. Korea managed to eke out 0.1 percent growth, Taiwan's 1 percent (admittedly much slower than the 10-11 percent it had a decade ago), and even Hong Kong managed a brisk growth rate), and most other East Asian economies still anticipate positive growth amid the large negatives showing up and reported in the West. Some point to this divergence as proof that Asia is "decoupling" from the major recessions led by the United States. And if it is indeed true that Asia's economies no longer need the US and European economies to grow in order to grow themselves, then there is cause that are Asian economies can do among and within ourselves to stave off significant contraction in our economies.

Ruling out V

A V-shaped recovery implies an immediate bounce back of the US and European economies, something few analysts expect to happen in this particular crisis episode. The current situation is often likened to the Great Depression of the 1930s, which most people are to have been marked by prolonged inactivity in those same economies. But I have heard at least one economist point out that closer semblance of the data would, in fact, show a V-shaped recovery in industrial output from its bottom point even at that time—except that the graph dipped again later to assume what looked more like a W shape.

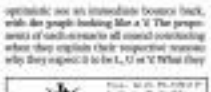
But industrial output is one thing; prolonged high rates of unemployment and general economic hardship is another, and the Great Depression was generally remembered for that. Bernanke's "green shoots" have most recently been negated by bad news on the things that really matter: The US economy lost another 663,000 jobs last month, and retail sales fell 1.1 percent in March after three months of positive growth. A total of 5.1 million American jobs have been lost since the 17-month-old recession began, and the more Americans lose their jobs, the less consumer spending there will be. And in the United States, often accused of "overconsumption" because their consumption has accounted for over 70 percent of its total production, consumer spending is ultimately what would spell the economic recovery...and nobody expects a V-shaped rebound there.

Looking east

That is why many are looking to Asia to propel the recovery in the world economy. While the Americans have been accused of excessive consumption, Bernanke stifled not a few feathers when he blamed their woes on Asians' "excessive saving"—because it ultimately financed Americans' overconsumption. But can Asia's economies really lift up the global economy as a whole?

US President Obama went to the recent

ROMERO, B2



FREE ENTRANCE

FOSTERING BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN KOREA AND THE PHILIPPINES

Korea Chungbuk Products Show 2009

In celebration of the 60th Anniversary of Diplomatic Ties between Korea and the Philippines

April 29 – 30, 2009
SMX

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES ON DISPLAY

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Event Highlights:
- Featuring 25 Korean companies from Chungbuk leading IT industry opportunities in the Philippines
- Information on business opportunities available for Philippine businesses in Chungbuk, Korea
- Photo exhibit on Chungbuk, Korea
- Catalogue on Chungbuk Korea

Organized by kotra

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
CORPORATION FINANCE DEPARTMENT
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
METRO MANILA
PHILIPPINES

IN THE MATTER OF THE REGISTRATION OF SECURITIES RIPPLE E-BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL INC.

Registrant.

NOTICE

NAMES	POSITION
Victor T. Javier	Chairman of the Board and President
Robert U. Ho	Director and Chief Technology Officer
Willy Tiong	Director/Corporate Secretary & Treasurer
Wilfredo Ang	Director
Valentino Sy	Independent Director
Conie V. Pamintuan	Independent Director
Maurice E. Lacsina	Director/Advisory Consultant
Karla A. Tuddao	Chief Financial Officer

JUSTINA B. CALLANGAN
Director

BPI sees asset management operations growing 15% this year

By Doris C. Dumlao

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISlands expects its asset management business to grow at least 15 percent, supporting the expansion even last year, despite lingering uncertainties in the global financial environment.

BPI executive vice president Adelbert Lagunzad said the bank, which ended last year with P370 billion worth of assets under management, could expand the business this year even if the fund management industry was not yet out of the woods.

"If you look at what happened worldwide, there was a 40-percent drop in asset under management industrywise many informed them investments as they were scared of what happened in the US," Lagunzad said in an interview.

"In our case, we experienced otherwise because we were able to offer instruments that they perform given, like short-term instruments. That's why we were able to grow by 15 percent. I think we can sustain it," he explained.

Asked which instruments were attractive in the market right now, Lagunzad cited long-term bonds with maturities of three, five and seven years.

But as to whether bonds would likely outperform equities this year, he said the latter would probably have a lot more upside. "Equities will probably have a slightly better yield curve as they have already gone down substantially," Lagunzad said.

Therese Marcial-Javier, senior vice president at BPI's asset management and trust group, said there were only two occasions in the year when Philippine stock markets dropped more than 40 percent to a year. "And afterwards they were always up," she said.

BPI has five subsidiary mutual funds, the bestseller of which is the ALFM peso bond fund which has P46 billion in assets.

SM Investment bond offer gets triple-A rating

By Doris C. Dorotan

LOCAL CREDIT WATCHDOG Philippine Rating Services Corp. has assigned a triple-A rating on the proposed P20-billion bond offering of retail tycoon Henry Sy's SM Investments Corp.

Philratings said it had rated the proposed five- and seven-year bonds PNR Aaa, denoting that the obligations are "of the highest quality with minimal credit risk and that the issuing company's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligations is extremely strong."

The credit watchdog said the rating reflected SMIC's diversified business portfolio, which included core businesses with strong market positions, sustained earnings and recurring cash flow, solid brand equity and experienced management team, strong liquidity and sound capitalization.

"Strong, recurring cash flows from its retail and mall businesses support ample and regular upstreaming of dividends to SMIC and its subsidiaries and associates who exercise control over major policy decisions of the group, including dividend plans," it explained.

Established in 1958, SM is engaged in four core businesses through its subsidiaries, namely shopping mall development and management (SM Prime Holdings Inc.), retail merchandising (SM Department Stores, SM Supermarket and SM Hypermarket), financial services (Banco de Oro and China Banking Corp.) and real estate development and tourism (SM Development Corp. and Highlands Prime Inc.).

SMIC and its subsidiaries operate businesses which benefit from spare gifts within the group, Philratings said.

Profiting has been largely generated internally in the past years, with cash from operations at P12.3 billion in 2008.

"Going forward, SMIC's cash position is expected to remain sound, with funding continuing to be largely sourced from operations," Philratings said.

Strong, recurring cash flow cited

from which to source payments for maturing debt, including the proposed bond issue," Philratings said.

It noted that SMIC's dividend income had been increasing in the last three years, with 41.50 percent accounted for by retail and 31.17 percent by malls.

"This trend is expected to continue going forward. By providing essential goods and services to the mass market, SMIC's retail and mall businesses are less affected by a slowdown of the general economy and can, therefore, be expected to maintain stability in terms of cash flows," Philratings said.

"Certainty of regular dividend income is further strengthened by the presence of a common, significant shareholder (the Sy family) in SMIC

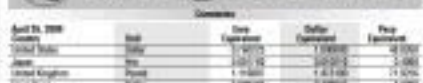
Meralco ...

From page B1

utility to source out, actively and slightly cheaper electricity from MSPC.

He explained that Meralco would be buying electricity directly and would not have to pay for transmission costs since MSPC uses embedded generators.

MSPC is owned by Carlton Assets Fund of Guyana Inc. Ltd, represented by Carlton Capital Markets Limited. Hong Kong-based firm Carlton Capital holds the biggest share of 35.71 percent of MSPC, which was registered at the Securities and Exchange Commission only two years ago.



Property market luring investors

By Doris C. Dumlao

FILIPINOS RELUCTANT TO PUT THEIR money in financial instruments are instead investing in property.

This is according to Ilton Properties president Danilo Ignacio, who added that confidence in the property sector had bounced back in the first quarter.

"What I'm seeing now is a good indication of the economy and investor confidence," Ignacio said. "At the end of the day, if an investor will look at his portfolio, where did he make money? In stocks, he lose money and also in derivatives. In Lehman, he lost money. If you put in banks, you get very little. But in real estate, nobody lost money, so in the first quarter, investor confidence came back."

Because of this renewed interest, Ignacio said property prices had held up well in the Philippines.

"They did not go down. In fact, we were able to increase our prices," he said. "Some of the developers reduced prices. Everybody was expecting us to bring down prices but what we did [instead] was suppress the supply, so our sweet spot is maintain prices."

Another recent trend is an increase in the number of buyers willing to give a higher cash down payment for their property purchases, Ignacio said.

Ilton, in turn, gives higher discounts to those with larger cash payments.

Ignacio said the relatively buoyant property market was also due to the fact that the Philippines was not as affected by the global financial crisis as the United States, Japan, South Korea and Europe.

Even if growth in the domestic economy would slow down to 1-3 percent, he said this would still be better than the recession in other countries.

Ilton, which has launched three new property projects this year, plans to launch at least two more by the third quarter.

One is an 8.6-hectare subdivision project in San Bartolome, Fairview, Quezon City, and the third phase of Ilton City, which will cover 20 hectares (out of 1,000 hectares) of the township development in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

From the Ivatans of Batanes
to the Tawi-tawians of Tawi-tawi
Unites the Filipino
JRS EXPRESS
Serving the Filipino since 1960
www.jrs-express.com

RP fails to get FMD-free tag

By Nico T. Dichoso Jr.

THE WORLD ORGANIZATION FOR ANIMAL Health has raised doom the Philippines' request to be certified free of foot and mouth disease (FMD) with the use of surveillance.

Instead, the body wants the Philippines to seek "FMD-free without vaccination" status, according to National Federation of Hog Farmers Inc. president Albert Lim.

While Bulacan hog farmers still using vaccines on their stock, the Philippines may not be able to get FMD-free status within the year.

"For three years now, we have not had an FMD outbreak. But only Visayas and Mindanao achieved this without vaccination," Lim said. "Luzon is not vaccination-free because Batangas only recently stopped doing this and Bulacan farmers still vaccinate."

However, Bulacan farmers have said that they would consider ending vaccination, Lim said.

Lim said an FMD vaccine shot costs P60 and swine must be inoculated at least three times until the animal matures.

He added that FMD-free certification is not needed for local sales, and will only be necessary for exports.

However, Lim said that while the Ebola flareup virus scare materials, exports are out of the question at this time.

As of January 2009, the country had 13.6 million hogs. Of these, as much as 75 percent are raised in backyard farms and 25 percent are handled by commercial farms.

CCTV SECURITY for ALL!
IP Camera
Php 6,850
4 Channel Network DVR
Php 8,500
4 Channel DVR Kit
2 Day & Night Cameras
1 DVR Card
Php 9,900
4 Channel Network DVR Kit
2 IP Day & Night Cameras
1 DVR Card
Php 15,500
High Performance Digital Video Recorders (DVR)
SECURITY SYSTEMS
Seed

PEMAC
"Maximize your Dollar and Peso Growth Potential"
Pesos-in-an-Asset Pay-out Regular Par Variable Products
Investment Funds of Variable Life Insurance Products
Valuation Date (dd/mm/yyyy)
Valuation Date (dd/mm/yyyy)
PEMAC Dollar Bond Fund
1.2792
1.3031
PEMAC Global Bond Fund
1.1486
1.1864
PEMAC Peso Fixed Income Fund
1.0739
1.0798
PEMAC Peso Equity Fund
0.9672
0.9864
PEMAC Balanced Fund
0.7677
0.7843
Principal Protect 1
0.9886
0.9886
Principal Protect 2
0.9678
0.9678
Principal Protect 3
0.9308
0.9308

CLARIFICATION RE: NOTICE AND WARNING ISSUED BY DIVINA AND UY LAW OFFICES IN THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER AND PHILIPPINE STAR (APRIL 20, 2009 ISSUE)

In connection with the above NOTICE AND WARNING, the facts are as follows:

1. MS. PACITA U. JUAN, in her personal capacity as the sole conceptualizer, adopter, and owner, applied for and was issued on various dates by the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) the corresponding certificates of registration for the above trademarks. Some of the registrations were subsequently the subject of valid deeds of assignment.

2. Last October 30, 2008, Figaro Coffee Co., Inc. and Figaro Coffee Systems, Inc. filed with the IPO twelve (12) Petitions for Cancellation of Ms. Juan's trademark registrations.

3. Before the IPO could decide the petitions, the Figaro Group of Companies filed Civil Case No. 09-220 with the Regional Trial Court of Makati City (Branch 66) praying among others, for the cancellation of the same trademark registrations, with prayer for preliminary injunction.

4. Last April 14, 2009, based on the complaint and supporting documents appended thereto and the parties' arguments, the Makati City RTC (Branch 66) issued an Order granting the application for a writ of preliminary injunction.

5. Pending the final disposition of Civil Case No. 09-220 before Branch 66 of the Makati City RTC and/or of the petitions for cancellation pending before the Intellectual Property Office, neither the so-called Figaro Group of Companies or any of its member company can claim to be the true and lawful owners of the above-mentioned marks.

PUYAT JACINTO & SANTOS
Counsel for Ms. Pacita U. Juan
12/F Mandalahan Building
6772 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
(632) 840-5025 to 28
pjs@pjslaw.com
www.pjslaw.com

Combining On-Road Luxury & Unsurpassed 4×4 Capability
FREELANDER 2
THE FINEST 4x4 UTILITY ON & OFF THE ROAD
RANGE ROVER SPORT
PURE 4×4 PASSION

AUTHORIZED EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR:
LRPHILS MOTORS, INC.
VISIT THE LAND ROVER ACTIVITY CENTRE
ENZO BLDG. G/F 399 San Rafael Ave. Makati
Tel 897 8888 Email: sales@landroverphils.com
Service Center:
Tel 881 7252
Fax 882 5503
3 YEAR/ WARRANTY
24/7 SERVICE HOTLINE 0920-952-4827
LAND ROVER
GO BEYOND

INFOTECH

Unleashing the perfect Storm

By Dawn L. Lucas

IN A COUNTRY WHERE people grow up "texting" with one thumb, why would people want to compose messages on a mobile device that requires two?

The Globe Telecom Inc., the reason for the market is shift to two-handed messaging may have finally come with slow but sure integration of mobile phone users to touch screen devices.

And what better way to strengthen its hold on the touch screen user market than to introduce a device like the new BlackBerry Storm smartphone that brings together the elusive combination of form and functionality?

"What we finally have here is something that has the strengths of the BlackBerry brand with a design that appeals to a younger set of non-business users," said Globe Business product manager Pedro Luciano.

More importantly, he revealed that Globe would soon make available its BlackBerry service—previously reserved as corporate users—to the consumer market via affordable prepaid packages.

According to Globe officials, they see a significant upside for the service in the Philippines, given the past up demand from mobile phone users who already use BlackBerry devices bought from overseas and the gray market.

"The demand from the consumer segment is so big that our customer care manager was surprised by the number of inquiries we got," added Globe's segment business head Ramon Medina.

Globe's new thrust is to allow the service to customers so that they could maximize the features of their units [especially BlackBerry's vaunted push e-mail system] while running non-users on its net the service.

Lacuna dismisses the traditional notion that BlackBerrys are expensive, pointing out that sending notes to fellow users can average (continued on Pg. 13 [per message ... compared to the 35 for a normal SMS] message.

Because of this feature, he pointed out, there are times when a user's BlackBerry can bombard the other user with hundreds of messages in a matter of minutes.

BLACKBERRY Storm

Lacuna also dismissed the "multi-tasking" issue that BlackBerrys are notorious for, pointing out that many's "leading email and messaging capabilities."

According to the company, its new Personal BlackBerry Plans are ideal for frequent email users and can also be used for instant messaging and mobile Internet surfing.

These plans—combined with GPlans and GFlat Plans—bring together a call, text messaging and mobile Internet package to one to customers can maximize their BlackBerry handsets.

These postpaid data plans don't let Plan 799 for 5 GB of data, which is approximately 55 e-mail items a day. Plan 850 gives the subscriber 8 MB of data for approximately 80 e-mail items a day, while Plan 1100 allows 10 MB of data as to not gets approximately 115 e-mail items a day.

These rates are added on to existing those postpaid plans so users get reasonable data. Beyond these amounts, regular mobile Internet browsing rates of P0.15 per kB apply to owners of the plan.

As an added bonus, security conscious users can take comfort in the fact that e-mail and messages sent via BlackBerry devices are encoded in "military-grade encryption" which never leave the servers of its makers Research In Motion, in Canada.

In a market like the Philippines, where concerns of cost, functionality, form and security intersect, what more can you ask for?

New way to find items on your phone

By Charles E. Rubio

REMEMBER TNT THE PHE-dictive text technology, which enabled more than one billion mobile phone users worldwide to perform faster text messaging by using just nine keys, has evolved.

Its developer, Nuance Communications Inc., has launched the T9 Find, a new interface search and access-based platform that provides a faster way to access all features, applications and services on a mobile phone with just a couple of keystrokes.

So how does the T9 Find work? Once installed, a mobile phone user will only have to press, for example, "m-n" "1-8" and the screen will present a list including e-mail applications, functions and ringtone. Of the user has this on the phone's music list, contact information for "Emily" and other device features, connect or applications beginning with those letters. The more keys pressed, the more specific the list will become.

In the same way, typing "s-e-t" (or 2-3-8) will give user a list that would include "calendar" and "calculator."

Adapting to user behavior

The T9 Find adapts to user behavior over time, so that the screen will put the combination on top of the list, it is more frequently accessed more than any other one next.

Indeed, the T9 Find simplifies and enhances the use of mobile phone since it saves one from doing long searches through the menus. It also allows users to search both on- and off-device.

On-device search would include the mobile phone's contact cards, its address book entries, music files, ringtones and photos, as well as services such as phone settings and applications.

Off-device search would include the individual user's contacts, settings and services, operator portal content and services and third-party content and services.

Bypass menus

Using the T9 Nav, the mobile phone users is able to bypass complex device menus to quickly get to the item needed.

At the moment, the T9 Nav works only on select Nokia models that run on S60 (6th) edition software and only in the S90, S60, 5320 Xpressmusic) and is available in English and Tagalog.

To send yourself of the T9 Nav, log on to www.t9nav.com or at www.softwareinternet.nokia.com.

Having the download, the user will be given an activation code, which is specific to the mobile phone's IMEI/serial number (this means the user has to make another download to equip another mobile phone unit).

Turning SMS addicts into good spellers

By Raquel P. Cuevas

LETS HOWZ LAUNCHED CONSUMER phone K2300 will surely encourage the young generation heavily engaged in SMS to become good spellers and better message writers.

This is because the K2300, categorized as a mid-range phone, has incorporated a sliding full qwerty keypad, a feature present in high-end smart phones.

Targeting young consumers, the colorful K2300 is designed primarily for texting longer texts not only for SMS but also for Web chatting through eMobily, a free mobile and web-based messenger that enables users to chat with MSN, Yahoo, and Facebook buddies.

Other smart features of the K2300 are the drop-it type of messaging in the SMS inbox good for reviewing responses, and touch dialing (key in the numbers by touching the soft number keypad on the screen.

The phone also has the ability to put a face on a caller through the "Picture ID" application. The application can also cop-and-paste images of callers on a list of contacts.

The phone's 2.4 inch QVGA screen has an "accelerometer" function (screen rotates automatically shift to horizontal position) once the qwerty keypad is in use.

The advanced 12 MB memory is small, but can be expanded through a memory card slot that can take in up to 4GB.

For Internet access, the triband K2300 uses GPRS and EDGE, Bluetooth and a 2-megapixel fixed focus camera, which can take videos as well.

It also plays a variety of music formats, such as MP3 and AAC, and can play videos as well (MPEG4). Aside from voice recorder function, it also has FM radio.

As a phone with a sliding qwerty keypad, the K2300 is relatively slim, measuring 16.8 mm thick. However, this stands-bar looking phone is small enough to fit in one's pocket.

Introduced in July last year, the K2300, priced at P5,500, has been making rounds in markets abroad, particularly among young consumers, said Richard Javier, head mobile communications division, 1st Electronics Philippines.

In fact, this model, along with another mid-tier handset the Cookie (a full touch screen phone), has become a major contributor to LG's higher-than-expected revenue, which in the first quarter of this year amounted to $3.6 billion worldwide.

HAGONOY WATER DISTRICT

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents & Eligible Bidders	April 30 to May 6, 2009
2. Deadline and Submission of Bids	May 13, 2009 - 10:00 AM
3. Opening of Bids	May 13, 2009 - 10:00 AM

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

RE-INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Description	No. of Units	Approved Budget (MAXIMUM ABC)
National Capital Region (NCR)	45	71,201,354.46
Luzon	48	6,861,123.75
Visayas	18	7,135,451.98
Mindanao	53	11,510,012.80
	164	

Form of Bid Security	Region	% of ABC	Corresponding Amt.
Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Manager's Check	NCR	1%	712,013.54 68,611.24 115,104.52 131,870.13
	Luzon		
	Visayas		
	Mindanao		
Bank Guarantee	NCR	1 1/2%	1,068,020.31 103,027.86 172,656.78 197,805.19
	Luzon		
	Visayas		
	Mindanao		
Surety Bond	NCR	5 1/2%	3,916,744.81 377,602.49 633,074.52 725,285.36
	Luzon		
	Visayas		
	Mindanao		

Approved by:

(Sgd.) ELLEN R. ROMUALDEZ
Deputy Governor
Chairperson, PMO-BAC

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC)
PROCUREMENT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Gov't seen overshooting '09 budget gap ceiling

GSIS revenue up 43%

By Roxnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE Insurance System (GSIS) posted a 43-percent increase in revenue in 2008.

Data showed the GSIS earned last year P6.41 billion in insurance premiums, contributions for reinsurance underwriting and revenues from investments, up from P4.5 billion a year ago.

Of the amount, insurance premiums accounted for P4.06 billion or 1.8 percent higher than the P4.48 billion in 2007.

Net operating revenue from its general insurance business hit P1.79 billion, a turnaround from a net operating loss of P650.60 million in 2007.

The GSIS sells insurance policies for fire, engineering, marine hull and cargo, aviation, contractor's all risk, bonds, motor car, personal accident, and miscellaneous.

The GSIS said it was trying to meet the compulsory third-party liability insurance (CTPL) "in compliance with its mandate to insure all forms of non-life insurance," although the move has miffed the business of private insurance firms.

The CTPL is a mandatory insurance that protects vehicle owners from damages to third parties in accidents, providing a P100,000 coverage in case of death or injuries.

The premium fund and vehicles owners "will enjoy more affordable CTPL rates when they avail themselves of the GSIS model."

The GSIS CTPL package for private vehicle owners amounts to P575, which is P225 less than the P800 that current CTPL providers charge.

"The GSIS CTPL for stable vehicles, including jeepneys, will cost only P575 compared to the old price of P800, for a saving of P775," the agency added. "Enrollment of GSIS CTPL is voluntary."

In 2007, the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) issued an order to integrate CTPL insurance with the Land Transportation Office's vehicle registration, which effectively placed the business solely in the hands of the GSIS.

According to the DOTC, the move was aimed at ensuring one-fly-by-night insurance companies and insurer that sell CTPL at cheap prices.

This alienated private insurers, who asked the Court of Appeals to stop the DOTC order's implementation.

The insurance firms said they had already installed a system that services not like CTPL policies. They maintained that the integrated system would only result to a monopoly that would increase insurance premiums in filing claims.

In October 2008, the CA-12th Division issued a preliminary injunction, which was upheld by the Supreme Court.

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT IS LIKELY to overshoot its budget deficit ceiling this year and is at risk of incurring a shortfall of more than 1 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), New York-based think-tank Global Source said.

This, it said, was due to its second-round spending brought about by the government's pump-priming efforts and weakening revenue generation.

Also, there has been no significant developments in the government's privatization projects and fiscal reform measures that could have helped boost the state coffers.

The deficit is the first quarter was more than double the size of the gap a year ago and was already more than half the government's full-year ceiling of P109.2 billion or 2.5 percent of GDP.

The collection shortfall is on account of slowing nominal growth and a sharp import decline, while outlays ballooned as the government rounded up spending under its economic resiliency plan, according to a report dated April 23, written by Filipino economists Ferdinand Bercasio and Margarita Gonzales.

"One can think of the deficit being internally magnified in the initial months of the year by the very essence of pump-priming, with public spending especially for construction accelerating during the summer months (March to May)," the report said.

It noted that fiscal managers did not want the deficit to exceed 3 percent of GDP, which was declared the "threshold" variable. "However, there seems to be no strong assurance that spending will be reined in to stay together even a sizable widening fiscal gap. With the May 2010 elections coming, it would be hard to imagine such fiscal tightening to ease fast," it said.

Global Source said the fiscal gap might be stopped for the rest of the year, but the ratio to GDP could hit 2.7 percent, higher than the government ceiling of 2.5 percent.

"In fact, the markets continue to believe in the merits of a stimulus and have not reacted much to the fiscal deficit news especially with the recession ending by way of rate cuts/adequate living down interest rates, particularly on the short end," the report said.

"Table family moved in response to first quarter fiscal numbers, personality and much of a surprise to today's, though necessarily focus on whether there will continue to be fiscal slippage going forward, which could eventually ruffle the markets," it added.

Frederick Neumann, economist at Asian banking giant HSBC, said fiscal policy influx does further monetary space would be needed to all the economy this year.

The economist projected that the government would likely end the year with a budget deficit of P250 billion.

Pump-priming efforts jacking up spending

Tuna canners seek deferment of EU rule

By Nico T. Divinagracia

THE TUNA CANNERS ASSOCIATION of the Philippines (TCAP) said it would ask the European Commission to defer certification program for fishery products entering the European Union (EU) starting Jan. 1, 2010.

TCAP executive director Fernando J. Buencamino said in an interview that the scheme against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing would entail a more expensive for tuna canners to export to EU.

With the scheme, he said, their cost would go up by about 15 percent.

Buencamino said it would add to the difficulties of local tuna canners who have been harassed these tuna imports by 30 percent.

He said canners resorted to importation as local tuna became more expensive and "traceability is a concern."

He said TCAP would submit a request to the EU through the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and the Department of Trade and Industry.

BFAR Director Malcolm I. Sarmiento had yet to receive the request but said he would support it.

"If they say they will have problems with the fisheries, I'll endorse their call for a study on the implementation of the EU regulation," Sarmiento said.

The EU is one of the top export destinations of local canned tuna. In 2008, it imported 8,000 million worth of tuna products from the Philippines.

The EU Agriculture and Fisheries Council adopted last year a rule providing that canned tuna export must be accompanied by documentation on the link between the processed products and the fish used in cans individuals.

The catch document should be accompanied by the catch certificate validated by the flag state of the fishing vessel that caught the fish.

The member of health certificates and the approval number of the processing plant will have to be mentioned on the statement to ensure the link between the finished products and the raw materials.

The rule aims to prevent the entry of illegally caught fish products into the EU.

From page B1

No free lunch

G-20 Summit in London hoping to get wide agreement to a coordinated fiscal stimulus that would have governments of the world's major economies spend a lot more than usual to boost the world economy. And that, indirectly, was expected to boost the most troubled economies now, namely the United States and Europe.

But here's the sorry check: US GDP is more than $13 trillion, Europe is over $12T, Japan has $4.2T, China $3.2T, Japan $1.4T, and India $1.2T. The total GDP of Asia combined is just over a third of America's and Europe's combined. Even if all of Asia stopped saving altogether, it would hardly make a dent. In this case, the recycling implication is that the United States and Europe need to fix themselves up, if the world economy is to get back on its feet. And from where I stand, I cannot see a V-shaped recovery happening in these economies.

Some worry that what Americans think is the light at the end of the tunnel is actually the headlight of an oncoming train.

(Comments welcome at dbabst@amrest.com.ph)

Cautious trading seen

From page B1

to focus on several key trades in June, taking advantage of market dips to accumulate.

Based on the Outlook compiler Jonathan Kovalin said the week's draw at 2,455.07 would imply cost of the 2,150-2,170 levels this week. *Doris C. Dumlao*

FOR DETAILS, CALL THE PROPERTY FORUM PHILS.,
MONDAY TO SUNDAY, 7:00 AM TO 7:00 PM
TEL. NOS.: (02) 534-9536 to 534-9564
CELLPHONE NO.: 0921-6720666

Peace of mind from Php 45,500.

ALTERNATIVE THINKING ABOUT BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY

Cost as much as a PC. Saves more than just money

intel Xeon Powerful. Efficient.

HP ProLiant ML110 G5 Server PHP 45,500.00

HP ProLiant ML150 G5 Server PHP 98,500.00

HP ProLiant ML350 G5 Server PHP 164,000.00

Also Available: HP ProLiant ML110 G5 SERVER SPECIAL PHP 75,500.00

Also Available: HP ProLiant ML150 G5 SAS Drive PHP 93,000.00

hp

BUSINESS

BSP says banks improved ability to cover risks

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL BANKS' ABILITY TO cover risks had improved as of September 2008, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) reported over the weekend.

BSP data showed that as of the end of the third quarter last year, the capital adequacy ratio (CAR) of the 29-digit-per banking system was 14.37 percent among local offices and branches.

On a consolidated basis—including banks' subsidiaries except for insurance firms—the ratio settled at 15.49 percent during the period.

CAR relates a bank's allocation of risk-based capital to its assets.

The BSP requires local banks to maintain a CAR of at least 10 percent, which is higher than the 8-percent requirement seen throughout the rest of the world.

According to the central bank, the September 2008 figures were 0.01 percentage points (ppts) and 0.2 percentage point/s (consolidated) higher than those of the previous quarter.

As of end-end-June 2008, solo-and consolidated capital adequacy ratios were pegged at 14.02 percent and 15.27 percent, respectively.

In the third quarter of last year, the banking system's Tier 1 capital ratio was at 12.17 percent solo and 12.91 percent consolidated.

In the banking system, equity capital is classified as core capital, or Tier 1 (T1) and secondary capital, or Tier 2 (T2).

Tier 1 supports banks' trading and includes common stock and retained earnings. Tier 2 provides for banks' capital-8-covering activities and includes subordinated debt, convertible securities and a portion of reserves for possible bad loans.

Credits by the universal and commercial banking industry reached 14.61 percent solo and 15.70 percent consolidated in the third quarter last year.

Revenue agency padlocks tax-delinquent company

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue (BIR) padlocked an office business establishment for not paying the correct taxes as the agency scrambles to improve collections amid a ballooning budget deficit.

Shuttered last April 21 under the BIR's Oplan Kandado was Gemsmasters Corporation Inc., which sold massage beds.

Antonio F. Montemayor, director of the BIR's Quezon City regional office, said Gemsmasters operations was suspended after it was found to have violated the Tax Code by issuing unregistered receipts.

Montemayor said the BIR issued a closure order after Gemsmasters failed to comply with the 48-hour notice and the five-day "OR [value-added tax] no-tax chat the tax agency served.

He explained that revenue agency gave the company ample opportunity to explain its side and present evidence to dispute the BIR findings.

Also, Gemsmasters was found to have issued official receipts to the name of another company, Gilbert Mega Trading Corp.

Based on the BIR's assessment, Gemsmasters underdeclared sales amounting to P34.44 million, which translated in unpaid taxes on basic income and VAT of some P23 million.

The BIR in January launched Oplan Kandado to improve collections and support the government's pump-priming efforts amid bigger deficit spending this year. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

BUSINESS Monday
Business Features Editor: Margie Quimpo-Espino

Corporate governance revisited

By Greg Navarro
Contributor

THOSE OF US WHO HAVE been pushing for stronger corporate governance principles have recently been presented with a dilemma by the current global financial crisis and, in the local scene, by the Legacy Group brouhaha.

The failures in governance in the Legacy Group case have emphasized the urgency for all stakeholders to understand and adopt proven and well-thought-out governance policies and practices.

On the other hand, we have Lehman Brothers, AIG and other financial icons, whose failures occurred despite the good-to-excellent governance, risk management and compliance policies they were reputed to have.

Long way to go

These events show that although good governance principles have indeed taken root and have produced exemplary benchmark practices, there is still a long way to ground a wide room for improvement.

COMMENTS B2

GOINGS-ON

Cebu Pacific offers seat sale

CEBU PACIFIC (CEB) is offering a seat sale from all of its hubs—Manila, Cebu, Clark and Davao—starting April 28 to 30, 2009, for travel from June 1 to August 31, 2009.

CEB is offering a P699 one-way "Go Lite" fare for its Manila-Kalibo, Iloilo, Tacloban, Cebu-Kalibo, Iloilo, Legazpi, Naga and San Jose, Batangas routes. One-way "Go Lite" fares for flights from Manila to Bacolod, Manila-Dumaguete and other Visayas destinations at P999.

One-way "Go Lite" fares from Manila to Mindanao destinations are sold at P1,349 except for Manila to Davao priced at P1,199.

Promo fares for other domestic routes are available at www.cebupacificair.com or through CEB reservations at (63-2) 702-0888 (Manila) / (32) 888-0888 (Cebu).

PanasTech welcomes students

PANAY TRADING INSTITUTE AND TESDA-accredited Center (Panasonic Technical Services) welcomes graduates to its Industrial Power Electric, Perfect Diet Reducing, Autodidactic Design, Computer Aided Design (CAD), and Electrical Design, Simulation and Robotic Basic courses.

In these challenging times, manpower agencies and companies have expressed that if one wants to go up the career ladder or have a higher paying job, competency-based skills and continuous professional education are critical.

Panas Trading Institute's newest programs aim to bridge this gap between the university learning and industry practice.

Based on surveys, new graduates and new technical professionals do not have enough of the skills required in actual work. Moreover, they lack the many competencies to effectively perform a job, which is why there is a growing demand for competency-based training programs.

For more information, call (632)832 or email contact@panastech.com.

Investment banks and hedge funds: The death sentence

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Jean d'Ormal

THE GOOD THING IN A MESS is that it is destroys myths and removes polluting players.

If there is something we have learned (or relearned) from the current global crisis, it is that hyperbolic profits and funding capabilities are major risks to be analyzed before making any investment decision.

When I started in the capital markets back in 1981, that is the first thing you were taught.

However today, these investment criteria have been largely forgotten or ignored by the investment banks and the hedge funds.

Investment bank model is dead

The world was shocked when Bear Stearns collapsed in March 2008. Then came the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy (the largest in US history) that sent shock waves and threatened the world financial system in September 2008.

This was followed by the collapse of Merrill Lynch and the quasi collapse of Morgan Stanley.

The world suddenly (and sadly too late) realized that these banks were built on fragile and shaky ground.

What did all these banks have in common?

- A low capitalization (compared to the massive risks they were taking).
- Highly leveraged balance sheets).
- A small and multiversified deposit base.
- A large exposure on illiquid products.
- Large funding needs.
- No-zero reliance on money markets for funding.

They were structuring huge and complex deals leaving them—sometimes willingly—to hold large positions of paper that no longer could move, gaps backed securities while waiting to find buyers.

Those positions needed, of course, to be financed.

I advised my clients as early as July 2007 to stop buying papers issued by US investment banks.

There, in late summer 2008, the "fear factor" set in and the funding markets suddenly froze.

The explosion of the trust or partnership model of all leading investors to stop functioning. The heart of the whole financial system—the money markets—came to a halt. The banks stopped lending to each other preferring to park their funds in government securities...even sometimes at negative yields—or just leaving them in their current accounts. The symbol is indeed evasion and allowed the whole financing chain, from the banks to the final borrowers, to collapse, paving the way to the economic frenzy companies that led to a full-blown economic downturn.

The universal banks with sizable investment banking activities were also severely hit, but managed to survive thanks due to their bigger capitalization and most of all to their large and diversified retail deposit base (3.06, Deutsche Bank or HSBC, for example).

The purely investment banks with huge funding needs and overly relying on money markets, collapsed like a castle of game cards (as we say in French).

The hedge fund model

Lack of regulation, supervision has been identified as a major factor behind the crisis

Imagine the minefield ...

More importantly and that is the main reason why the hedge fund model as we know it has to die, they created a complete disregard for their investors.

Their behavior came down to a simple sentence: "Give me your money and I will send you rights and bids up and bottom, and fruit, back and center!"

What many investors didn't know, ill-advised by their greedy private bankers, is that the investment agreements by hedge funds were full of very written clauses allowing the funds to change the rules of the game right in the middle of the investment.

The hedge funds were very imaginative in finding new concepts like MVB (market value reduction) in case of "poor market conditions."

Result to injury

As a result, when things turned sour, they decided overnight to freeze the redemptions, to stagger the redemptions over many months or years, or to purely and simply postpone the redemptions at whatever unwanted conditions got better!

It basically means that even if you wanted to, you couldn't get out of your investment.

What happened to the beautiful promises of monthly or monthly liquidation? Disappeared ...

To add insult to injury, in many instances, the subsequent exit strategies implemented by the hedge fund's client had to decide today if they wanted to sell in three months time at a price fixed in three months on value, of course, entirely at the discretion of the hedge fund itself and, therefore, unverifiable.

It was take it or leave it.

So after having stolen their clients a first time, they did it a second time ...

The hedge fund industry can never but will have to be entirely regulated, much more transparent and above everything, respect their clients.

Rules to force the funds to ensure their own liquidity must be established.

More importantly, the hedge funds must be obliged to provide liquidity to their clients according to an initial and pronounced liquidation policy and without any "force majeure" clauses.

The fraud of hedge funds (FOHF) model is dead and buried.

Funds of hedge funds were very popular strategies used among others to diversify the risks by using many different fund managers and many different fund strategies.

The FOHF would, therefore, invest in many different hedge funds, which would somehow and level the risks and performance of the FOHF itself.

Multiplying risks

But instead of reducing the risks, it multiplied the risks.

The liquidity issues even above became exponential.

FOHF managers suddenly had zero control over their own liquidity and, therefore, couldn't ensure the liquidity of their clients.

They became completely dependent (hostages) on the goodwill of each of the underlying funds.

Imagine: Instead of one fund to monitor redemptions, you have to deal with 20 funds; each of them having different ways of "stealing" their investors.

It is obviously unimaginable but nobody thought about it before the disaster occurred.

Even with easy sister rules, and given what happened, (the model will never recover, simply because in situations of extreme stress, it becomes impossible to manage.

Simple advice

Simple piece of advice: Do not invest in investment banks (I'll leave an easy left ...), do not invest in funds of funds (FOHF) and do not invest in hedge funds until clear and mandatory liquidity rules are established.

I made public private equity funds, at least you know in advance that you are in for the long terms, that it is a risky investment and that it has no liquidity.

Analyzing the liquidity of your portfolio is something that I'll be glad to do for you!

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is chair of Invictus Advisor Inc. Feedback at mapi@philstar.com.ph. For previous articles, please visit <map.org.ph/>.)

Unleash your creative genius with Tony Buzan
LIVE IN MANILA!

The Innovation & Creativity Forum 2009
with TONY BUZAN

Unleash the genius of creativity and innovation!

Tony Buzan: Creativity Guru

Educators & Teachers Conference 2009
with Tony Buzan LIVE!

Parent Student Creativity and Learning Workshop
with Tony Buzan

Discover a "Brain-New World" of Teaching & Learning!

Unleashing the genius in the family!

SALT & LIGHT VENTURES, INC.
CALL 9162151 | 9162105
EMAIL SLVGURU@PLDTDSL.NET

Corporate governance revisited

From page B2-1

During the past several weeks, the entire nation has watched the story of the Failed Legacy Group unfold.

The Group, with interests in the pressed and banking industries, has been accused of duping its clients of millions of pesos just as a time when the country was beginning to feel the impact of the global financial turmoil.

The timing could not have been worse—especially for the pressed industry, which has been trying to rise from the difficulties of the past few years.

Several cases have been, or will be, filed against Legacy.

Lawmakers have already had the opportunity to grill business man-turned politician Celso de los Angeles Jr., owner of Legacy Group, after whistle-blowers—his former employees—had come forward to expose his dubious transactions.

Sadly, testimonies have also implicated Jesse Shamsee, the recently removed commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Lavish gifts

Witnesses said that Shamsee allegedly received lavish gifts from the Legacy owner in exchange for protection of (to his suppliers' businesses.

Before his retirement last March 14, Shamsee headed the oversight of the pressed industry, which is regulated by the SEC.

It is both ironic and sad that the corporate watchdog is under fire for not protecting investors' interest.

But, to the SEC really at fault here? Or is there a need to substantially revamp the way pressed companies operate? To whom can investors turn at a time like this?

In its attempts to defend itself, Legacy has been cutting a wide net. Its banking arm has dragged the names of a number of thought leaders of business into the scandal, unwittingly or otherwise.

Some politicians are also being implicated and drawn into the quagmire. And it does not help that so-called pseudo-raiders are availing themselves of the opportunity in the press boards on the verdict to their clients according to an initial and pronounced liquidation policy and without any "force majeure" clauses.

The fraud of hedge funds (FOHF) model is dead and buried.

Funds of hedge funds were very popular strategies used among others to diversify the risks by using many different fund managers and many different fund strategies.

The FOHF would, therefore, invest in many different hedge funds, which would somehow and level the risks and performance of the FOHF itself.

Multiplying risks

But instead of reducing the risks, it multiplied the risks.

The liquidity issues even above became exponential.

FOHF managers suddenly had zero control over their own liquidity and, therefore, couldn't ensure the liquidity of their clients.

They became completely dependent (hostages) on the goodwill of each of the underlying funds.

Imagine: Instead of one fund to monitor redemptions, you have to deal with 20 funds; each of them having different ways of "stealing" their investors.

It is obviously unimaginable but nobody thought about it before the disaster occurred.

Even with easy sister rules, and given what happened, (the model will never recover, simply because in situations of extreme stress, it becomes impossible to manage.

Simple advice

Simple piece of advice: Do not invest in investment banks (I'll leave an easy left ...), do not invest in funds of funds (FOHF) and do not invest in hedge funds until clear and mandatory liquidity rules are established.

I made public private equity funds, at least you know in advance that you are in for the long terms, that it is a risky investment and that it has no liquidity.

Analyzing the liquidity of your portfolio is something that I'll be glad to do for you!

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is chair of Invictus Advisor Inc. Feedback at mapi@philstar.com.ph. For previous articles, please visit <map.org.ph/>.)

Moral crisis

Many believe that this is not a financial crisis but a moral crisis. Questions on unethical behavior, unprincipled profiteering, exploitative capitals and investor greed abound.

There are serious questions that need serious answers. Times are tough and people everywhere are struggling to stay afloat.

It is not fair for the reviews, the honorable, the OFW, or the everyday salaryman, who thought they were doing the wise and prudent thing by investing in a pension plan or in a high-yield deposit, to be left holding the proverbial empty bag.

Someone should be answerable. Stated...

In the book "The Power to Govern," a PhA Foundation publication, four prominent local economists emphasize the corporate governance one of the writers tackled the story of a thrift bank that was forced to undergo rehabilitation after losing P327.9 million.

An audit showed suspicious transactions that were all geared back to those of the bank's top officers. As in the case of Legacy, many depositors saw their hard-earned savings because of the bank's failure to practice good governance and the regulators' failure to detect the shenanigans.

Perhaps one good thing that has come out of these experiences is a better appreciation, among a wider audience, of the importance of good corporate governance.

It has also become that much clearer in the minds of many that corporate governance will benefit all stakeholders only if this is a result of a well thought-out process. If it is molded to the organization's needs and if its principles and practices are thoroughly understood by management, employees, regulators and investors.

Only then will "good corporate governance" cease to be just another buzz phrase, an inclusive concept.

Only then can the following principles of good corporate governance become a way of life, rather than a grudging compliance with regulations.

(The author is managing partner and CEO of Fernandezes & Arandia, a member firm within Grant Thornton International Ltd.)

Designing for the next nine decades

By Vanessa O. Hidalgo

A LUNCH BOX THAT AUTOMATically cooks or warms your meal as you swing your arm, a self-serving cooking table that allows you to cook in any part of your house and a laundry basket that washes clothes when you press a button on your cell phone—these modern appliances were created by young individual design students for household of the future.

And if you think you can create better appliances, then Design Lab is for you.

Design Lab is an annual global design competition open to undergraduate and graduate students of industrial design. It serves as a venue for them to present their innovative ideas for appliances of the future.

This competition receives thousands of entries from over 100 countries. It has a different theme for each competition and is held in different cities every year.

"Design for the next 90 years' is the theme for Design Lab '09. This year, students will be asked to create home appliances that will shape how people prepare and store food, wash clothes and do dishes.

"We want the students to recognize the people who will be wired in the next 90 years," said Perrilla Johansson, design director for Electrolux Philippines, during the launch of Design Lab '09.

The event was presented by Electrolux at the World Trade Center, coinciding with the World Building Construction and Exposition held last March 11.

Johansson said that, throughout history, technology has helped shape "lives and our future."

During the event, a small workshop was also held for industrial design students from Far Eastern University, Adamson College and University of the Philippines. The workshop aims to ignite the creativity of students, encouraging them to think out of the box.

The criteria for Design Lab '09 are: Consumer insight, Innovation, and Inspiring design.

UNIVERSITY of the Philippines students present their sketch of a solar bar bocue. This future appliance will harness solar energy to grill food.

DESIGN Lab aims to inspire future industrial designers.

Consumer insight refers to the understanding of future needs.

"We want them to give us new knowledge and gain a competitive edge as well," Johansson said.

For innovation, students must create advanced solutions to defined customer needs.

Finally, Design Lab encourages students to "create an unfolding story" to capture the audience and help consumers understand their inventive design.

Design Lab '09 wants students to make their future consumers say, "why didn't I think of that?"

"We want to inspire and challenge their skills to further improve their talents," Johansson said when asked why the company was focusing on young minds. "I hope the students will be inspired with the cutting-edge trends and that they will be able to tell a story through design. We believe in the creativity of Filipinos."

According to Johansson, design is very important nowadays "more especially in business."

It has to meet expectations and be able to develop a relationship with consumers," she explained.

At present, environmental sustainability is on top of the list of most companies. This holds true for Electrolux, which is why they are encouraging students to create appliances that are not only innovative, but also features means to conserve resources.

"For Design Lab '09, we focus on creating eco-friendly products without compromising needs of our consumers," said Dessie Ilgo, marketing manager of Electrolux.

Even in this time of crisis, Ilgo believes that the appliance business is experiencing a modest growth of an average of 20 percent.

"The Philippines is not as hard hit as other countries," Ilgo said, referring to the global downturn. "In fact, people here still buy appliances, like washing machines and refrigerators."

The deadline for submission of entries for the Design Lab '09 will be on May 11. The competition proper will be held on Sept. 24, in London.

Cash prizes amounting to $5,000 and an internship with Electrolux await the winners of the event.

'Students must create advanced solutions to define customer needs'

CARL JAPAN
ULTRAVIOLET AIR STERILIZER
Keep Your Home or Office Healthy
kills 99.9% of Influenza & Staphylococcus Bacteria
Powerful Dust Full Function
Sterilization.
Deodorization.
Dust Removal.

Regus
Flexible offices from just PHP 9,700
per person per month
- Office spaces from 5 - 500 sqm
- Flexible terms to suit your needs
- Meeting rooms & virtual offices
- Business lounges
Call +632 849 3489 or visit regus.com.ph

PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
13th National Press Forum
"Reporting the 2010 Elections Now"
and 2009 Annual Membership Meeting

April 27 - 29, 2009
Diamond Hotel Philippines
Roxas Boulevard cor. Dr. J. Quintos St., Manila

Day 01, April 27, 2009:

OPENING OF THE EXHIBITS: Community Press Awards - Journey of Excellence
Prayer Against Impunity and Symbolic Cutting of the Ribbon

OPENING OF THE FORUM AND THE ASSEMBLY

PRESS CONFERENCE ON IMPUNITY and THE EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLINGS BY THE FREEDOM FUND FOR FILIPINO JOURNALISTS (FFFJ)

FORUM 1: Global Economic Crisis and the 2010 Elections: How will the effects of worldwide recession impact on the Philippine elections?
The International Perspective, The Insight from the Academe, The Local Business Point of View and The Government's Take

Day 02, April 28, 2009:

FORUM 2: Outlook and the Challenges for Automated Elections
A panel discussion by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC), the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), the National Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL), the Institute for Political and Electoral Reforms (IPER) and the Media Experts

FORUM 3: The Media and the Elections: How do the media cover the elections?
The Ethics on Covering Elections, The Broadcast Media, The New Media: Blogging the Elections, The Elections in Mindanao, and Elections and Governance

FORUM 4: THE SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION: What is the PPI Scholastic Press Association?
Civic Journalism, Media Accountability and Ethics, The Community Press, Training Campus Writers and Simultaneous/Break-Away Sessions on Managing A Newspaper, Business and Economic Reporting, and Science and Environmental Reporting

THE 2008 CIVIC JOURNALISM COMMUNITY PRESS AWARDS: Best in Business and Economic Reporting, Best in Science and Local Journal Reporting, Best in Photojournalism, Best Editorial Page and Best Editorial Page

Day 03, April 29, 2009:

FORUM 5: INDUSTRY CONCERNS: Journalists' Safety and Security in the Run-up to the 2010 Elections, Update on the Right of Reply, Update on the Legal Notices, The United Print Media Group (UPMG), and The Future of Print Advertising

Presented by: Manila Bulletin, Philippine Star, Business World, Inquirer
With support from: Smart
Thanks to: The Coca-Cola Export Corporation Philippines Division, Dental First, Globe, Ororo, Pilot

BUSINESS Monday

US firms drop freebies amid difficult times

NEW YORK—FORGET THE GOODY bags. Many shareholders accustomed to grabbing free food and gifts at US corporate annual meetings are going home empty-handed.

Citigroup, 3M Co., Merrill Co. and other big businesses have scaled back the freebies at their yearly shareholder gatherings, deciding to send a message of austerity to investors amid the tough economy.

The annual meeting is a important time for adult shareholders especially chief members of the board of directors, approves the appointment of outside auditors and listen to management deliver optimistic remarks about the business.

Most individual investors never go to these meetings, usually held in the spring for companies' previous fiscal years end in December. But some do turn up in part because they are invited by a free lunch, gifts or free entertainment.

But some meetings are being held without the frills these days. Citigroup, for example, did not supply Pizza Hut and pastries it had historically provided when it held its annual gathering earlier this week.

Citigroup Chairman Richard Parsons told stockholders that offering refreshments would have required the bank to rent more space in the Mediterra Manhattan hotel where the meeting took place, increasing the expense of the event. In their stead, he said, saving money is a good thing.

With the government funneling $45 billion of capital into the bank and the company's share price in the doldrums, many people might agree with the no-frills frugality policy.

Still, shareholders already have been told not to expect any frills at the industrial manufacturer's May 12 meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota.

HUGE! Jackie navigates with Mickey Mouse. This year's annual stockholders' meeting of Walt Disney Co. was a low-key affair than past events. /r

The company informed them in a note enclosed with its annual report that this year's meeting will be "somewhat different." That means no lunch—and no gift bags stuffed with 3M products such as Post-it notes and sandpaper—either.

Monday shareholders are to meet on April 30, also will forgo the room-the company traditionally has provided.

The change is not a cost-cutting move but is related to the economic turmoil, said spokesman Bob Savage. He said the Pennsylvania-based conglomerate decided to donate money to food bank in lieu of giving shareholder gifts.

At Walt Disney Co., held its annual meeting last month at a theater in a girly section of Oakland, California, a less cities other than past events that have featured live entertainment, such as life-sized cartoon characters and singer Randy Newman performing for the shareholders two years ago.

Like entertainment has been a feature of Wal-Mart Stores Inc.'s annual meetings, with performances by singers including Gaelle Brooks and Aretha Simpson.

A spokesman, declined to comment about any specific plans surrounding this year's gathering, set for June 5.

Some companies do not traditionally provide meeting treats.

A spokesman for Bank of America Corp., for instance, said the company has not given out coffee, food or other things at its gatherings, and plans no changes this year.

The bank's shareholders likely won't need any caffeine to be fueled up for this year's meeting, though. Many shareholders are furious over the company's controversial acquisition of troubled investment bank Merrill Lynch & Co., and are weighing a proposal to strip Chief Executive Ken Lewis of some of his responsibilities by throwing him off the board of directors.

But gift-giving to business or non-profit corporations.

Procter & Gamble Co., which holds its annual meeting in October, said it gave out goody bags as usual last year and is not planning anything different for this fall's gathering.

Starbucks Corp., meanwhile, gave out a pound of coffee and a thermos-packed cup of its new Via instant coffee blend at its March 18 meeting.

Also keeping up the gift-giving tradition makers McCormick & Co., Inc. Shareholders received free sample, including mustards, a Teriyaki noodle bowl mix, a cinnamon grinder and Creole mustard at its March meeting, spokesman Jim Lynn said.

"They were happy because they have a stock that cost more than three cents until by them," he said. "And they also get a new bag of products."

Reuters

Rural banking goes high tech

TECHNOLOGY HAS BROUGHT ABOUT A lot of inconveniences. Just ask the clients of rural banks who can longer have to go to their bank to withdraw or deposit of money.

"With the help of technology, we can now offer our customers easy access to our services—thanks to mobile phones and automated teller machines (ATMs)," says Teresita Gomez II, president of the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP).

"Technology is a great equalizer as it democratizes the access to capital by Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Nowadays, even those in the far-flung areas can transact with their banks only just a SMS message or go to strategically located ATM machines," Gomez adds.

Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that ATM service-enabling rural banks have been growing since 2005, from just five banks to 83 in 2008.

Also, some banks are already offering electronic banking services such as mobile phone banking. This innovation is part of the ongoing Rural Bankers modernization of the Philippines—Microenterprise access to Banking Services (RBAP-MBS) program, which aims to accelerate the development of the countryside by expanding the access of microentrepreneurs to microfinance services.

This USAID-supported project in partnership with G-Cash of Globe Telecoms.

Forty-six rural banks have started offering e-banking services such as cash cards and mobile banking as of mid-2007, a significant increase from zero rural banks with electronic banking in 2005.

Other banks, in partnership with Globe's G-Cash, have taken mobile phone banking to another level. The participating rural banks are now using the electronic cash platforms in delivering financial services, like deposits, withdrawals and loan payments.

Around 70,000 rural bank clients and employees have already registered for mobile phone banking services, with mobile phone transactions of rural banks in 2009 increasing by over 350 percent from the same period in 2007, according to Globe.

The RBAP has also rackup with Smart Communications, for the use in Smart-Money cash-in-cash out banking services.

The BSP has praised the rural banks for their efforts to use technology to reach their customers, saying the successful experiences caught the attention of the international community who are leading the efforts in using technology to increase access to finance.

"Indeed, mobile phone banking has the unique opportunity to reach a wider spectra of clients and tap those who are traditionally marginalized and "unbanked"...the lower income segments of the population," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. added.

Rural banks have benefited from the latest technological innovations, according to Gomez. "Today, with the help of the latest technology, we have been able to link our services to our customers," he said.

Manuel Le Chuly Corporation (MLC), pioneer coconut ISO certificates. Premier Manuel Le Chuly (center) and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. (second from left) receive certificates of compliance from the globally recognized ISO Quality Management System (ISO 9001:2000) and the Environmental Management System (ISO 14001:2004).

Representing the ISO, the Bangko Sentral certification is unique to the complete set of prohibitive required standards for the quality management system. This has firmly established the company's adherence to the ISO quality standards that enhances customer satisfaction to supplier performance certification.

The Environmental Management System certification, which gives the requirements for environmental management systems, confirms Bangko Sentral's commitment to operate in an environmentally responsible manner.

Present during the presentation were (1-r) Like Ryan, BSP's General Manager and Executive Vice President Nilo Ray Tan, PCCI's SEARCCI-Quality and Environmental Management Representative, and Rosario Kawasaki, Managing Director of Certification International Inc.

PROXIMITY PHILIPPINES / BBDO GUERRERO WIN BEST WEBSITE & PEOPLE'S CHOICE WEBBYs FOR AMORSOLO RETROSPECTIVE

MANILA, PHILIPPINES, 22nd April 2009

Proximity Philippines / BBDO Guerrero and the Amorsolo Retrospective took home two trophies at the 11th Philippine Web Awards for Best Website and People's Choice in the Arts and Portfolio category for the site www.amorsoloretro.com.

The annual Webby Awards are hailed as the Oscars of the Internet and seek to recognize outstanding work in website design and development.

The winning team posed with Amorsolo Retrospective Executive Director, Evelyn Forbes to celebrate the win.

In the photo are (from left) Paul Guadalupe, Art Director; Leah Mahobonghoek, Art Director; Pia Rocas, Head of Copy; Celles Esguerra, Account Manager; Raquel Morrice, Copywriter; JP Lok, Web Developer; Dino Cabrera, Head of Art; (seated) Evelyn Forbes, Amorsolo Retrospective Executive Director

Pass the UPCAT – the SURE WAY!
FREE!!!
1,000+
UPCAT
Questions
www.upcatreview.com

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

UNDERARM Hair
Zap it with LaserLight!
Call Pacific Care at 892-5808 (7546)

Sta. Ana retains good old Pinoy neighborhood values

Call it an urban barrio—relaxed and tightly knit, but now threatened by 'modernization'

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

THE SURVIVING HOUSES ON Brixton (Pedro Gil) Street along the banks of the Pasig in Sta. Ana are rare and excellent examples of vernacular architecture from the late 19th century.

More importantly, around these colonial riverside homes, a lifestyle has evolved among the town's residents.

These houses would probably be among the last of their specific type of architecture remaining along Manila's dizzying Pasig. There were even similar mansion houses by the river, in areas like Recoleto in Sta. Mesa, through Pilar subdivision in Makati and beyond. Today, most of those houses are gone.

Realizing the value of Manila's lost river heritage, the city of Makati is launching a restoration project to recommission some of the surviving riverside houses in a small stretch of its dying heritage along JP Rizal Street.

In Sta. Ana, the original houses still exist. Demolishing these removes the last few authentic examples of Manila riverside heritage, while others areas like Makati is now reconstructing similar houses that are no longer there.

FOLLOW 14

WILMA CRUZ TAPALLA
"The Pioneer Cheerleading Coach"
Mla Ateneo Blue Key 11 Ateneo Blue 2
WILMACRUZTAPALLA.com

Gateway recommends Windows Vista® for everyday computing.

Be Connected... *in Style*
with your All-in-One Powerhouse.

Gateway.

Sta. Ana retains good old . . .

By Pamela Cruz

Built at around the same time, this group of surviving houses (Arnold House, UP-Montessori School, the Lichauco residence) on one of the Antop-na-bato architectural type found in dense urban locations such as Intramuros and Binondo in Manila.

Although architecturally similar to the Antop-na-bato, these were constructed as riverside vacation houses, with verandahs and wide openings to frame river views and catch the cooling breeze that came from the river, filtered through large, leafy gardens.

ORDINARY activities define the Sta. Ana lifestyle, encouraging social interaction among family and friends — every traditional Filipino way of urban living.

Integrity

Totally united in the valley-maples, the architecture of the Sta. Ana became typically Philippine, following traditional bahay-na-bato design. Ground floors of stone are covered by the main floor constructed totally of wood, where the family living quarters are.

Although the houses have been remodified or expanded over the years to suit changing needs (one became a seminary, another a children's school), the overall effect is still one of architectural integrity, meaning, they are all still in basically good shape.

If authenticity is an issue, all of the subsequent interventions would be removed to once again expose the original, authentic "bones" of the structure, as I have noticed from my inspection of the Lichauco and on Montessori structures.

Not only are the houses of absolute heritage value, the surrounding neighborhood can be considered enduring Manila heritage as well. The present public market, reconstructed along pretty much the same lines after World War II damage, is an excellent example of the traditional Filipino palengke (market) design developed during the American colonial regime.

Totally in tune with its tropical environment, a high, double-roofed structure open on all four sides with traditional cornbread ventilation for natural cooling, covers the large market space. It would be called architectural suicide these days because of how suited it is to the tropics.

It is green architecture of highest standards, but it is simply traditional architecture that was sensitive to its environment, a lesson for today's architects who have lost environmental sensitivity.

Homes dotted behind the market to bring people and produce. Power lines rolled on its own necessary network of individual stores and the Pasig for transportation. Sta. Ana continues to be a major river terminal.

The Sta. Ana streetscape, especially around Plaza Calderon and Plaza Hugo, are good examples of vanishing traditional Manila streetscapes that combine various types of architecture, from the Spanish to American colonial periods, followed by the post-World War II period in the 1950s, and into more contemporary architectures.

Evolution

Taken as a whole, the mix of architectural styles shows the evolution of a neighborhood through time, how once it was far enough from the city to be the place where the elite escaped Manila heat. A century later, it evolved into a tightly packed, urban, land residential quarter in the middle of Manila.

The area might appear as architectural hodgepodge. Its unity it comes through in a pretty strong visual image. In most neighborhoods all over the Philippines, this mix of styles is being demolished in favor of generic contemporary architecture, often bland and of inferior quality when compared to what it was built over.

The Sta. Ana mix of architecture and neighborhood lifestyle is a quickly vanishing facet of Filipino culture, because we associate that particular architectural mix with growing, being old-fashioned and unsophisticated.

The lifestyle lived by its residents within those spaces — a tightly knit community living in either straight houses or apartments (concentrics) — made walking to the market or the little shops a pleasant experience, allowing lots of human contact. Friends and neighbors met while worshipping at church and going to school.

Such ordinary activities defined the Sta. Ana lifestyle, encouraging much social interaction among friends as they walked around the neighborhood doing their everyday chores or business. Call it an urban haven.

This is a comfortable, very traditional Filipino way of urban living that is threatened by "modernization."

Why not build on the existing Sta. Ana neighborhood instead, bring it up to date, yet, but maintain its heritage and especially its quality of life the way it is now? That neighborhood is what makes living in Sta. Ana a safe haven in the chaos that modern Manila has become.

That is New Urbanism — recognizing that good old Filipino values still work despite our being 21st-century globalized beings.

Email the author at pmlc.plaza@gmail.com.

Bag tons of discounts at National Book Store

Girlfriends & discounts with the National Book Store Diskwento Bag! Get 10% off on all 'N' sticker-tagged items you can fit inside it. To get one, watch out for list-outs ad in major broadsheets on these dates: April 17, 24 and May 1, 2009. Bring the ripping in any NBS branch nationwide to redeem a Diskwento Bag and fill it up with all your back-to-school essentials! Valid for use on April 20, 27 and May 4 only. Hurry! Visit the NBS nearest you for more deals and deals this summer.

DISKWENTO BAG
Discounts galore! Get 10% off on all 'N' sticker-tagged items you can fit inside the National Book Store Diskwento Bag

Comprehensive medical protection and male and female benefits for optimal insurance coverage.

Adam and Eve give you:

- Benefits exclusively for males and females such as Family Income Benefit (Adam) and Cancer Benefit (Eve) among others.
- Guaranteed life insurance protection until age 85
- Accelerated disease benefit coverage for 35 major diseases
- Guaranteed lump sum maturity cash benefit at age 85
- Other fund growth options including cash value accumulation, dividends earnings, and more
- Flexible payment schemes and supplemental rider options

Financial freedom with Manulife. Contact a Manulife Sales Associate today.

Manulife is among the highest rated life insurers in the world and we remain one of the strongest and best capitalized life insurance companies.*

Manulife
Bringing dreams to life

TELEPHONE (02) 86-4-MLIFE (86-4-5433)
www.manulife.com • phil.admin@manulife.com

Innovative Designs for Tomorrow

Workshop for freelance writers

THE WRITING Institute, a private writing workshop for adults and teens, presents its inaugural seminar series "A Survival Guide for Freelance Magazine Writers" on May 16, 23 and 30 at Q Bistro on Ortigas, Pasig.

The workshop, which covers topics from conducting interviews to marketing your work, aims to provide students with an understanding of the realities of freelance writing and give useful advice on creating engaging articles.

Luis Katigbak and Christine Ruiz Bautista will be speaking at the event.

For more information, visit www.thewritinginstitute.multiply.com or contact Heidi at 09497774 and 09281877063.

PURPLE POWER for the heart!
No Added Sugar. No Saturated Fat. & No Cholesterol!

That's Welch's 100% Grape Juice for you.

Welch's 100% Grape Juice contributes to cardiovascular health. More than a decade of research suggests that Welch's can help promote a healthy heart and flexible arteries, which contribute to healthy circulation and blood pressure. Welch's 100% Grape Juice is naturally loaded with antioxidant power. Welch's is a heart-healthy juice with no fat and no cholesterol. Delicious and healthy! So the next time you drop for juices, stop when you see purple.

LIFESTYLE Arts & Books

Italianni's
Small Price for a Big Lunch
Lunch from P295-P350, 11am-3pm
Monday to Friday, from March 9 to May 31, 2009

Fr. Peyton sculpture by Joey Velasco to be unveiled in Ireland

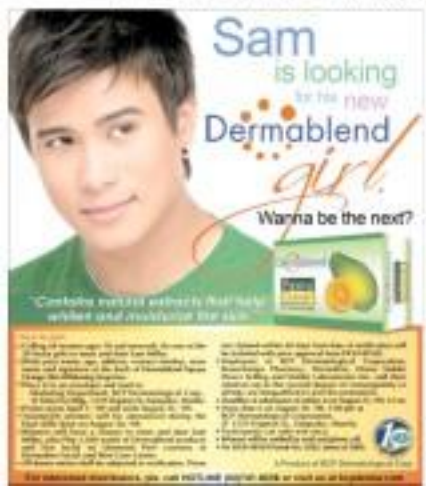
JOEY Velasco with his seven-foot statue of the Rosary Priest, Fr. Patrick Peyton

By Dexter R. Macilo
Contributor

A WORLD AT PRAYER IS A world at peace" is probably the simplest and most logical way to respond to the age-old question of how the world can achieve peace.

The beauty of the message is that its plea to everyone is to do something that can be

Velasco was chosen over four other artists from the US, South America and Ireland



Fr. Peyton sculpture by Joey Velasco to be unveiled in Ireland

From page D1

done at any place and at any time—that is, to pray. The man who popularized this message was Fr. Patrick Peyton.

In his 51 years of ministry devoted to the Blessed Mother, his Rosary and to families, Peyton considered all Rotary radio around the world, drawing 28-million people, including one million in Brazil (1954) and in the Philippines (1961). Then, he has been known as the Rosary Priest.

He founded the Family Rosary Crusade, and in 1947 the family Theater, which has produced over 600 radio programs and 83 TV specials featuring top stars such as Bing Crosby, Loretta Young, Frank Sinatra, Jimmy Stewart, Bob Hope, Jesse Bonas, Gregory Peck, Lucille Ball, Henry Fonda, Rosalind Russell, Jack Benny, James Cagney, Raymond Burr, Barbara Stanwyck, Margaret O'Brien, Helen Hayes, Maudie Wood, and Maureen O'Hara, Jane Wyatt, Ronald Reagan and Shirley Temple.

The Family Theater radio series, which featured hundreds of famous actors, was broadcast on the Mutual Broadcasting System from 1947 to 1955, making it one of the longest running weekly dramatic radio programs in history.

Canonization cause

Peyton died on June 3, 1992. The cause for his canonized was formally announced on June 1, 2003, by Bishop Seán O'Malley, formerly of the Fall River, Massachusetts diocese. Peyton has since been honored the title "Servant of God."

This year marks the 100th birth anniversary of Peyton, who was born on Jan. 9, 1909, in Carnacarle, County Mayo, Ireland, to a family that prayed the Rosary nightly in their home.

BRO. BERNARD Considered, the author and sculptor Joey Velasco

Several public activities all over the world have been staged since Jan. 1 in honor of the priest. The yearlong celebration, with the theme "Honor his memory, continue his mission," includes a Mass at St. Joseph Church which will be celebrated by Jesse Cardinal Ready of Armagh and will be broadcast all over Ireland. It will also feature the unveiling of a seven-foot statue of Peyton by Filipino artist Joey Velasco.

Velasco, who will fly in Ireland for the event, describes it as historical and momentous, not only because he was the one chosen to do the sculpture over there, but also due to the circumstance he was able to overcome during the creation process.

While in the middle of finishing the sculpture, Velasco experienced bleeding in his urine and had been scheduled to undergo surgery in January.

"I did the project with much prayer and devotion in spite of the fact that I am not an exemplary Christian," Velasco says. "I felt so unworthy of such grace. I asked for his intercession, and I

FR. PATRICK Peyton

received healing from him, first in the serenity from the real surrender that I felt, and physically, the bleeding suddenly stopped. I did this task to honor Father Peyton and his deep Marian trust in Mary. I did this very difficult task in my lowest and weakest moment. For as St. Paul said, 'It is when I am weak, that I am made strong.'"

Artistic guidance

Throughout the entire process, Velasco used his intuition and imagination to fill the blind spots. He had to revise it five times to get Peyton's likeness

FR. JOE PHALEN holding a miniature of the sculpture

right, and the overall proportion of the body.

Velasco adds that he felt guaranteed trying to bring to life a man he has never met and is on the road to canonization.

The superior general of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, Peyton's order, also went to Velasco's studio several times just to check on the statue's progress.

"It was hard to sculpt someone you did not see in person," Velasco says. "But I was guided with videos and pictures of the family founder, and his autobiographical book, 'All for Mary,' served as a spiritual guide."

Working on the sculpture, Velasco used his intuition and imagination to fill the blind spots. He had to revise it five times to get Peyton's likeness right, and the overall proportion of the body.

To guide him through, Velasco says some say old Fr. Peyton's soul was with him.

"It was beside me when I was working on the monument, and I felt his presence," Velasco says. "One thing I realized is that in all his years, Father Peyton's passion had been strong."

Famous message

It is this same passion for prayer that Phalen would like Filipinos, especially the youth, to embrace.

"Father Peyton's message is one that is timeless, for all generations," Phalen said during a visit to Velasco's residence. "It is a simple message of staying close to God, realizing that what's most important is finding love and happiness, and knowing where to find lasting."

Other activities are planned throughout the year in Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Uruguay, Mass of the International offices will conduct the annual "Try Prayer! It Works!" contest on Peyton's famous message: "The family that prays together, stays together."

K-12 graders submit artworks, poetry and essays that reflect the theme. Chapters throughout the world of the Father Peyton Guild, promoting his cause for beatification, will sponsor various Rosary activities, while several Catholic television outlets will be scheduling biographical programs on Peyton and selected programs the Catholic media pioneer produced.

"We need sacred insight, the gaze toward which his whole intervening life was directed, so as to encourage families to come together daily to pray the Rosary. Be sure to make time for this simple practice," said Fr. John Phalen, CSC, president of the Holy Cross Family Ministries. It is message early this year. "Let 2009 be a year of strengthening the family through the family Rosary!"

Simple prayer

Phalen is inviting families to pray the mysteries of Rosaries for "world peace and any particular intentions" and for the salvation of your family members," and to add this simple prayer for Father Peyton's beatification at the end of the Rosary:

"Dear Jesus, Father Peyton devoted his priestly life to strengthening the families of the world by calling them to pray together every day, especially the Rosary. His message is as important for us now as it was during his life on earth. We beg you, therefore, to hasten the day of his beatification so that your faithful people everywhere may receive his message that the family that prays together stays together, will imitate him in his devotion to your Mother and ours, and will be inspired by his holy life to draw ever closer to you with childlike confidence and love. Amen."

Holy Cross Family Ministries consists of Family Rosary, Family Rosary International, with 16 locations throughout the world, including the center in Ireland; the Father Peyton Family Institute, Easton, and Lima, Ohio, and Family Theater Productions in Hollywood. It is sponsored by the Congregation of Holy Cross.

To participate in the anniversary observances, families and individuals can sign up on the organization's website (www.fathers.org) to pray a family rosary and also to submit prayer intentions and to pray for other intentions that have been posted on the site by other individuals. Additional information is available by calling toll-free 1-800.299.9505 (7729).

E-mail the author at dennisd. lit@yahoo.com

Gonzaga returns to Vienna opera scene

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

AFTER A YEAR-LONG HIATUS, tenor Dominic Gonzaga is back in Vienna as Cajal in "Turandot," singing a role in other Filipino tenor has ever dared sing in the past—that of Barcheo in Strauss' "Ariadne auf Naxos."

His latest Cajal did come unexpectedly, when the assigned tenor in the Volksoper Wien (where Rachelle Gonzales made her European debut as Liu) didn't feel well and Gonzaga had to step in in the middle of the first act.

"I had to jump in, singing from the side of the stage. I guess it went very well because I had a standing ovation not only from the audience but from the whole orchestra. What an honor! I love the role of Cajal and I have sung it in many times in several productions and will be singing it in the future. And of course they noted it. Called in Manila and the tenor got sick, I am come," says Gonzaga.

For the record, the Radio hero went to the only Filipino tenor to sing the role of Cajal, which he has sung 54 times. He has been singing in Vienna since 1980 and, judging from audience reaction, he is clearly one of the favorites.

"The Viennese audience is great," adds Gonzaga.

Two parts

The Strauss opera, premiered in Stuttgart and Vienna in 1912 and 1916 respectively, is in two parts, called the Prologue and the Opera. The Opera is often referred to as an opera within an opera. Gonzaga sings the part of the god Bacchus, the role has a passionate duet with the coloratura part of Zerbinetta.

"It is probably the most dramatic role," says Richard Strauss composed for a tenor," wrote Gonzaga. "It is very demanding, but again I have sung this role more than 60 times and I know the pitfalls. I have somehow perfected the art of maneuvering them."

One of the earliest times a Filipino made news in Europe was when Nemesio Yogyog conducted Josha Fuentes doing "Dance of the Seven Veils" in the opera "Salome" in the late '20s. The opera was last mounted in the Hong Kong Arts Festival with Sara Andrews Fernando in the cast.

Another Filipino tenor who made headlines recently is Leonard de la Cruz, who sang the part of the mad scientist and self-another role in Offenbach's "Tales of Hoffmann," mounted by the Singapore Lyric Opera. It is the same opera company where he had sung Gustav ("La Traviata"), Don Basilio and Curzio ("Marriage of Figaro") and Ping and Pang ("Turandot"), among others.

The Singapore "Hoffmann" is actually a complete re-staging of the Opera de Nice production, and the director found the Filipino tenor so engaging he was ordered to go to Europe.

Economic downturn

As expected, the opera needed a come-back after the pinch of the economic downturn. The Baltimore Opera in Maryland has just declared bankruptcy and many other houses are in the red.

Gonzaga says the same is true in Vienna, but, at the moment, his latest engagements are secured by a four-year contract.

In Singapore, the Esplanade theater is offering free concerts to encourage its lovers who can no longer afford to buy tickets.

TENOR Leonard de la Cruz as the mad scientist in Offenbach's "Tales of Hoffmann," mounted by the Singapore Lyric Opera. Below, right: De La Cruz's recording of Strauss songs, "O, Harvest-ig a Balan" (CDs, Radiant Moon)

Says De la Cruz: "The economic crisis was felt deeply in the ticket sales of the Theatre. On the whole, only 60 percent of the tickets were sold as four play dates. The Singapore Lyric Opera will only mount one opera a year because of the difficult times. How am I coping? It is amazing that my family is not affected at all. In fact, I'm even doing better financially these days. My family is forever grateful to God."

Her Opera curious about the vocal artistry of De la Cruz, the answer is a recent recording of Strauss songs called "O, Savoring a Balan" (CDs, Radiant Moon), released by Tantal Publications. Accompanied by pianist Basil Stanico and guitarist Ruben Reyes, De la Cruz proves he is just as versatile singing the Tagalog songs of his Ilocano roots as singing opera arias.

Workshops for teachers, musicians

The Intermezzo Administration, in conjunction with the office of the mayor, school division superintendent, is conducting workshops for music teachers of public elementary schools from the five districts of Manila.

Representatives from 22 schools are participating in the program to be conducted by Professor Felipe de Leon Jr. of the University of the Philippines. This is in preparation for the Children's Chorale Competition in November. It is open for students in special primary and girls, according to Intermezzo administrator Anna Maria L. Harper.

The Philippine Opera Center for the Performing Arts, meanwhile, under the expert hands of the Philippine Opera Company, will be training groups as well as individuals who are interested in honing their skills in singing, playing a wide range of musical instruments, and even proper stage performance.

POC will be offering one-on-one lessons in voice, piano, guitar, violin for beginners and advanced students, as well as a new program called "Buddy Lessons," which offers voice and instrument lessons designed for couples or friends who may want to study voice in the same instrument together.

"Music and Movement" group workshops will also be offered, designed for soldiers, children, persons with mentally of the summer classes and workshops will have a continuing recital from 6 to 8 in Carlos P. Romulo Theater at RCBC Plaza. Call 8926765 and look for Dorie, or visit the school at 15 Garcia Hills St., San Lorenzo Village, Makati.

'Spelling Bee' returns July 3-12

ATLANTIS PRODUCTIONS' BEmore his musical "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" will return for a limited repeat run from July 3 to 12 in the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Makati.

The musical has a Tony Award-winning book by Rachel Dratch-dale and music and lyrics by Tony Award winner William Finn.

So this "Spelling Bee" shows are over either, as it features "amazing roles" each night for two reluctant audience members and other surprise celebrity guest spellers.

Celebrity guest spellers during the owners sold out run included Lea Salonga, Jeri Vasquez, Pinky Marquez, Cherlie Georgia, Leo Almaja, Jon Santos, Charie Gil, Sen. Chiz Escudero, Noel Trinidad, Gelo Alevizato, Tikki, Miguel Melchica, Gina Alajar, Charlene Barretto, Isabella Gonzalez, Francis and Ayen Laurel, Ramon Cruz, Wency Cornejo, Menchie Lauchengco-Yulo, Bayo Laurel, Wyzy Velarde, Teresa Herrera, Alan Sayaoncon and Frida Valdez.

"Spelling Bee" is directed by Bobby Garcia, with choreography by Chari Arespacochaga, set design by Beaji Reinigelo, lighting design by Johnny Reyes, costume design by Twinkle Zamora, vocal coaching by Marthin Angeles and musical direction by Jojo Mariano.

The show is made possible through a special licensing arrangement with Music Theatre International. For tickets, call 8927859 or 8481187.

Chabet at Mag:Net Katipunan, Borlongan at Centro Boco

Mag:net Gallery Katipunan presents Antoni Chabet's "10,000 Paintings I Most Paint Before I Die" until May 7. Join Nits Kanlo's new installation, meanwhile, is on exhibit until May 12. Alex Aguilar's "Reflections of a Discarded Screw" runs until May 4, and a group exhibit called "Silver Box Sinulog," featuring Boy Cabahug, Marianne Chiong, Eugenio Jacque, Jayrdo Jop, Mike Muñoz, Boy Roces, Hiroshi Tanahashi, Mac Valdezco, Yasmin Sison, runs May 6-June 1. Silid Bernardino Art Projects and The Silangan Foundation for the Arts, Culture and Ecology present Elmer Borlongan's solo exhibition, "Crispy Bird" (Our Town), May 1 at The Center for Book Arts (Juan Luna Hall). Borlongan's recent works are rendered in oil on canvas, acrylic on canvas and works on paper. Call 551-7227/27, e-mail silid_ermelbo@yahoo.com or visit www.silidcreatives.com

Calip at Avellana Gallery

"Presence," Lanoglen Calip's one-man exhibit until April 30 at Avellana Art Gallery, showcases 10 mixed-media works that make use of bag, plastic and different types of bacteria. Having spent some time in the United States, Calip's works are about redeaming and pushing against boundaries.

VISUAL ARTS

"ABSTRACT" 8/8

Recio at Ricco Renzo

"Remembering to Forget Remembering" is Rita Recio's fourth solo exhibit, on view at Ricco Renzo Galleries & Cafe (G/F, LR Design Plaza, 210 Nicanor Garcia St., (formerly Rizal, Bel-Air II, Makati). The difficulty of remembering, the fuzziness of memory is what Recio attempts to capture in her work. The show runs until May 10. Visit www.riccorenzo.com or call 8883545, 8807 0316/17.

Roxas at 20Square Gallery

Isabel "Pepper" Pineda revisits creepy critters in "Beauti-Mare and Other Curiosities," on exhibit April 30-May 20 at 20Square Gallery (2/F, YBC Bldg. II, 2330 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati). Stemming from her love of taxidermy, natural history museums and the Edwardian English style, Pineda focuses on strange occurrences and the artifacts they leave behind. Call 8160044, 0906-2602873, e-mail hello@silverlenspho-to.com, visit silentlens.multiply.com.

Alvarado, group work at Blanc Gallery

Nonieboi Alvarado's "Baricoso Brain" runs until May 1 at Blanc Gallery, 20 Crowne Tower, 107 9th Ave. Costa St., Solevido Village, Makati. Visit www.blanc.ph or www.blancartspace.multiply.com; call 7630002, 0920-9016436, e-mail info@blanc.ph.

Meanwhile, "Surrounded by Water," a group art exhibit, runs until May 9 at Blanc Gallery Mandaluyong (350 Shaw Blvd.). Works on show are by Angel Bandino, Ric Balleron, Jonathan Ching, Marvens Ching, Louie Cordero, Christina Dy, Eduardo Enriquez, Lyra Garcellano, Geraldine Javier, Mike Munoz, Gary Pastrana, Annet Pobleo, Eric Reca, Frederic Sanna, Yasmin Sison, Kelyn Mikaela Tuason, Nina Yuyune, Ferdi Valencia and Alvin Villasoil. Visit www.blanc.ph.

Large-scale works at Artis Corpus

Elwyn Borlongan and Pat Rodajala join Emmanuel Cardoz, Mel Manuhi, Thomas Sapaying, Francesca Enriquez, Ferdinand Modesto, Joseph Serrano, Sandra Palomar and Trek Valdivia in "Becoming Fences," a gathering of large-scale works that have remained in artists' and private collections over the past 20 years. The show is at Artis Corpus Gallery (333 Haig St., Mandaluyong City) May 1-31, with reception on May 5 p.m. Call 7171618 or 0920-4631536.

Moirban at Big and Small

Berlie Mamaban reveals his seventh solo exhibit, "Motion," on till April 30 at Big and Small Art Company (3/L, SM Megamall). Mamaban's work takes off from Marcel Duchamp's early 20th-century art, which introduced motion similar to the way photography did with multiple exposures assisted by strobe lights.

Campos at White Box

Young abstract artist Dencelchen Campos opens his one-man show "Entice" May 1 at White Box Studio Gallery in Cubao Expo. Campos' fourth solo exhibition, "Entice" presents images that recall early Abtex or Conceptualism. Like-dimensions of the '80s and '70s, Campos investigates the character of nondescript markers. Three sets sold May 13.

Marikina Duplex

BRAND NEW
READY FOR OCCUPANCY
MUST SEE TO APPRECIATE

Industrial Valley Subd., Marikina
Tel. 655-1370 (30, Hours-Mon-Fri
or Cell. 0922-509-9641

25 yr. Bank Loan Available

ENJOY A FABULOUS SINGAPORE STOPOVER
VIA THE WORLD'S MOST AWARDED AIRPORT
FROM US $1*

CHANGI
Singapore

HELP FOR WOMEN'S HAIRLOSS
- WHAT REALLY WORKS.

Millions of women suffer from it. Whatever the cause is – genetic, stress, hormonal imbalance, certain medications or other body disorders – it's definitely more than just hairloss. It's the loss of confidence, vibrancy and younger appearance.

Don't let your hairloss miseries worsen with false remedies. Count on Svenson for real solutions:

TOTAL HAIR REVITALIZATION PROGRAMME – fights genetic hairloss, speeds up hair growth and thickens hair strands.

ULTRA HAIR REINFORCER – deep-cleans scalp, creates healthier environment for growth.

ULTRA-LUSH VOLUMIZER – quickly controls and stops hair fall, helps restore original lushness, volume and softness.

Yes, women can be free from hairloss!
Call now for a FREE private consultation.

Svenson
call 892-HAIR (4247)

MAKATI 10/F SEI Tower | TOMAS MORATO 6/F SVB Center | BINONDO 11/F Federal Tower Building | ALABANG 6/F Citibank-Philtelo Building | CEBU 5/F Ayala Centre TEL: 234-8811

"CATS Caught by Surprise"

The felines were painted in comical unease, cubed and boxed in

Cats in the fruit salad of Babeth Lolarga

By Victoria Rico-Cardino
Contributor

IN A POEM, "CATS IN MY FRUIT SALAD," Babeth Lolarga writes of a woman who watches cats running "like splatters" in her orange sunshine.

She reminds us how bargainous and unscholarly cats can be. The poem then shifts to the woman's thoughts about a world gone berserk, like herself could "vomit rainbows" and retire to Forever continent, head breaking into "infinite long tunics."

But through art, the woman sees inhabits a "brave new world" of the imagination. Here, apples, strawberries and mangoes take flight and new shapes and colors are to fall away.

Cats, still in the picture, now dare wears up to a world gone to the dogs, and "with their pink pink tongues" rush into the poet's lined of fruit salad left vanishing.

The poem was a companion piece to paintings in Lolarga's first solo show held in Baguio City. The exhibit, "Cats in My Fruit Salad," ran until April 15 at Café by the Ruins on Chonting Street (across Baguio City Hall).

"YET Another Green Apple"

The paintings, done in acrylic on canvas and paper, were mostly still lifes: fruits, vases, a bowl of poinsettias, studies of wine bottles, rubber shoes. Cats and a "Picasso woman" were the only ancient subjects, and worked in cubist fashion.

One painting had a ginger and a second brown cat fighting, their fur coats bristling. Lolarga had them boxed in, in a bright yellow room with a low ceiling. The other cat painting had a black-and-white feline to flight, arching from right to left, and landing on its proverbial feet, hard, on green-and-white tiles.

Possibly to get back at the cats that got in to her fruit salad, Lolarga painted the room in comical reverse, colored and boxed in. The cats in the poem were better-served.

The centerpieces of the collection were the still lifes. Lolarga set vases and wine bottles next to green apples and strawberries on plates, and housed them in leaf area.

When struck viewers way the napkin-dresses. Her palette was awash with the yellows, oranges, pinks and reds of Baguio's fruits and flowers, and the blue depths of Baguio's summer skies. The poinsettias in a bowl catch the sun in their crimson folds.

The suppression of art is what Sachre calls "aesthetic joy." When the feeling comes to the viewers of art, it is "a sign that the work is achieved." An 10-category-run-filled canvases, whatever.

Lolarga, who has worked at a journalist for over 30 years, is in her senior year in a Fine Arts major at the College of Arts and Communication, UP Baguio.

Victoria Rico-Cardino teaches English and Humanities at UP Baguio, where she is also the director of the Office of Public Affairs

"Hot PICASSO"

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Ernesto G. Velarde

Touched by Candy

Ferry Amphibio Adhesive, josephine_adhesive@xxx-box.com

I was touched by the story about Candy Bughaw and her son. It's amazing how she makes people happy in a moment, while doing everything that she has to do for her son. I admire her not just as an actress but, you know that, even for her formidable real-life character! Thanks for sharing her story with the rest of the world.

FEEDBACK

18-hour labor leaves Vina exhausted

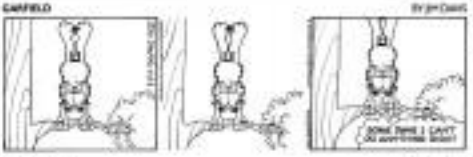
By Mabini R. Cruz

"HAGAN KO HAGAN ako! I'M EXHAUSTED," Vina Morales told her best friend a few hours after she delivered baby Cruz Infinity morning.

The singer-actress labored for 16 hours. Prior to this, she worked until the sun set, months pregnant. Words evoking a well-deserved long break there show business, according to ABS-CBN's Asia Magic.

SUMMER EXTENDED SALE
Lipoject
Gluta Injectable
Red Diamond Peel
Laser Hair Removal
80% OFF

GARFIELD By Jim Davis



JL LIPIN By JOELA BRIA

FUGAO BABOY BY RH. JUNIOR

DICK TRACY

LOVEHUNGRY BY ELIZABETH CHICHOCO

JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEPHEN PABALINAS

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

TULOOK BY MARK COLL

SEN By DAVID SHELTON

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LIRA-GARCELLANO

BIKO MACHINE BY MANSI ABRERA

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): It was Monday. It was Monday. It was Monday. It's Monday all day." To do is action, perhaps like in the library of the gym one two days. Nevertheless, it's a good beginning.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Money and cash flow are concerns for you today. You're never never afford anything. Then you'll panic will realize not a few days. Trust me.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Romantic tensions arise and discussions with parents, in particular, explain the shadowing to do. Don't tell girl to cry.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You'll prefer the scents of isolation and solitude today because you want time to think by yourself and just your self together. By the end of the week, you'll feel more sociable.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Don't let someone else to make decisions for you. You're overcomplicating things today. Be confident in your own take on things. Actually, in fact, might be friendly and phone.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Some aspect of your private life calls for you to do or browse, teachers, parents, and TIPS. You might not relish this, nevertheless, you can handle it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Travel plans or something relating to do with higher education positively or the month is turn, possibly blocked. This is not a romantic, try don't rush and find out.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): The prospect of support from others or your share of responsibility might disappoint you today. Don't worry. Benefits come in over the rough routine, family and can unfold this year.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Postpone important discussions with partners or close friends. Later in the week is a better time. Today, people are inclined to be pessimistic.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Today is a good day to discuss matters with that you normally find boring. You are finally served today by someone or a bank or financial. Romantic.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Financial matters for problems could be a concern today. Don't panic with the to lend you can. Be patient. On the plus side for creative jobs. (This is nothing to do with money.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Parents or older relatives might be confused if you for some reason today. Don't let this get to you. The particular Monday has a positive aspects. Romantic. It's gonna work.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. Musical tendency
5. Mr. Rogers of "Mr. Rogers and the Magic"
8. Insulting remarks
12. Mrs.
13. Work
14. Talking stick
15. Fish
16. Tolerate
17. Tiny bit of food
18. Stay seated
19. Sleeping sickness
20. Bee's home
21. Jobs
22. Hawaiian dish
24. Negative answer
25. Negative atoms
26. Hallelujah
27. Negative
28. A warm twilight event
29. Nonsense words
31. Lunch drug
32. Ambient
34. Ago
35. Baby horse
37. Shopping cost
41. Walking sticks
42. Walking horse
43. Insects' homes
44. Ancient Egyptian
45. Four ... (Dutch treats)
46. Changes
47. Ancient Greek
48. Broken dishes
49. Song
50. Blood vessel's challenge
52. Electromagnetic induction
53. Electrocution
56. Makeup drink
58. Electrical attribute
59. Tiered

CLUES

1. Tattooed worker
2. Send something
3. Wildlife Ally Organization
4. Stick
5. In ... years
6. Political commentary
7. Negative answer
8. Negative atoms
9. Common greetings
10. Fragment
11. Lyrics
12. Harassing notes
13. Work
14. Tiered tortoise
15. Written lesson
16. Lyrics
17. Shopping cost
18. Hypnosis of dividing
19. Three wishes
20. Hawaiian veggie
21. Mrs.
22. Ambient
23. Mr. Rogers's
24. Talks about like a normal person
25. Written reflection
26. Hallelujah
27. Ring for a friend
28. Fragment
29. Lyrics
30. Fragment
31. Three gray wolves
32. Lyrics
33. Mrs.
34. Mrs. Mr.
35. Fish eggs
36. Mr. Rogers's
37. Mr. Rogers's
38. Lyrics
39. Fish eggs
40. Three gray wolves
41. Lyrics
42. Lyrics
43. Lyrics
44. Lyrics
45. Lyrics
46. Lyrics
47. Lyrics
48. Lyrics
49. Lyrics
50. Lyrics
51. Lyrics
52. Lyrics
53. Lyrics
54. Lyrics
55. Lyrics
56. Lyrics
57. Lyrics
58. Lyrics
59. Lyrics

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

© 2009 Puzzle Features Syndicate

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	3						1	
7			3	4				6
1	4	6			2	8	5	3
		4		5			8	
	1						2	
	7			8		6		
2	5	3	7			9	6	4
8				3	9			2
	9						3	

Difficulty Level ★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

7	8	6	1	4	3	5	9	2
4	5	1	9	7	2	3	6	8
2	3	9	6	8	5	4	7	1
9	1	2	3	6	4	7	8	5
8	7	3	5	1	9	6	2	4
6	4	5	8	2	7	1	3	9
1	6	7	4	9	8	2	5	3
3	2	8	7	5	1	9	4	6
5	9	4	2	3	6	8	1	7

Boyle makeover splits London

LONDON—THE ECONOMY IS SCARE AND are disappearing and bears are going up. But Britain is buzzing over something else—Susan Boyle's new hairdo.

Some say the overnight singing sensation who rocketed to fame after a phenomenal performance on "Britain's Got Talent" has every right to upgrade her dreamy appearance. Others say she may lose her personality—and her amazing connection with the TV audience—if she goes too far in the image makeover department.

The change is startling. Gone is the frumpy woman with graying, frizzy hair and a dowdy line—now replaced by a stylish, coiffed lady in fashionable leather jacket and what looks to be a Burberry scarf. The dark, unkempt eyebrows have been shaped and enhanced.

"She looks 10 years younger," said Toni Jones, assistant fashion editor at The Sun tabloid newspaper, which featured the new look Boyle on its cover Friday.

"Compared to what she had, it's a 200 percent improvement. But you readers think this is as far as she should go."

Jones said Boyle's decision to dye her hair brown was causing some consternation among the posters that live on "Britain's Got Talent" by making them feel she may no longer seem real.

"It's got massive implications for her because the people above her want her to look ordinary," said Jones, who praised Boyle for spending 28 pounds ($42) on a makeover how home in Scotland rather than trekking to London for a 200 pound ($295) cut at a celebrity salon.

Londoners seem to be split over the new look.

Dean Elliott, a young dance student in London, said Boyle had lost what made her special by altering her appearance.

But Helen Clerihill, a London photographer, said she welcomed Boyle's decision and would likely have done the same if she was in the same position.

The women of the mini-makeover may binge on how far Boyle progresses on "Britain's Got Talent." Judges will decide May 23 whether she gets through to the next round. AP

Sufian Boyle wolves (above) and after she dumped the chunky choker and donned the leather jacket. The whole of Britain is watching her.

NINA Morales with younger sister Shaina

18-hour labor...

It was a normal delivery for Vina. The baby, at 6.9 lb, was proclaimed healthy. Exact time of birth was recorded at 8:47 a.m.

Mother and daughter are expected to be discharged today or tomorrow from the Cardinal Santos Medical Center in San Juan.

Priorities

Her handler, Love Capulong, told Inquirer.net that Vina's immediate plans is to "personally care for the baby, then get back in shape." Capulong said the singer has described "all pending show biz commitments."

Vina was admitted to the hospital at 2 p.m. on Friday. "She said labor took a while because the baby was shy," said Capulong. Actually, her doctors were expecting Vina to give birth as early as April 18.

A few days before Crezza was born, Vina's youngest sister Shaina Magdayao said, "Everything's ready, including the baby's room. Ate's friends have held several baby showers; she didn't have to buy anything more."

Vina earlier said "Crezza" was a combination of her name and that of her boyfriend, businessman Cedric Lee (though her real name is Sharon Magdayao). "Crezza also means God is gracious," the singer said on the Sunday variety show "ASAP '09."

Friends happy

Singer Gary Valenciano, Vina's co-host in "ASAP '09," had this to say: "We rejoice with Vina and pray for her healing. [She is] so great; God would shower her with the strength, love and wisdom that she will need to raise Crezza according to God's word."

Actress-TV host Gelli de Belen, who worked with Vina in five movies in the 1990s, was also happy to hear the news: "I know that's very excited. I hope she enjoys her baby and spends as much time with her as she can. And she should prepare for a lot of sleepless nights."

Singer Rachel Alejandro said she was sure Crezza "will grow up as beautiful as her mother." Rachel added, "The last time I saw her, she was simply glowing and looked really at peace."

E-mail mcruz@inquirer.com.ph

What's cooking with *Janice?*

By Bayard San Diego Jr.

TV host will graduate from culinary school in October

A PLEASANT SURPRISE was in store for couch potatoes who watch Bobby Chinn's foodie show, "World Café Asia," on Discovery Travel and Living.

In the episode on Philippine cuisine, chef Gene Gonzalez and his culinary school were featured and among the students caught on film was TV host Janice de Belen.

A self-confessed fan of cooking shows, De Belen coincidentally ended the autographs from Chinn, and snapped a with him.

"He was nice to everyone and very friendly. He wrote a beautiful dedication when he signed my copy of his book," she recounted. "Chef Gene told him that I had a cooking show, too."

Gourmet groupie

She also met Chinn's fellow Discovery host, Anthony Bourdain, when he visited Café Ysabel, site of Gonzalez's cooking school (Centro for Asian Culinary Studies), late last year. "I got a photo and an autograph, too!"

Seems she's a bona fide gourmet groupie.

De Belen related that she's of most done with her course under chef Gene. "We'll just have our repertoire, which is sort of our final exam, and then our internship and externship. I graduate in October," she said.

The busy mother of five has always been a tireless cook, who can whip up a menu calls and fieldtrips. Most taking up a professional course, she has picked up more tricks in the kitchen.

"I got to cook more dishes with better techniques," she related. "Before, there were recipes that I was scared to try."

She had just all going to school for the longest time. "I took lifestyle and short-term classes, but never seriously pursued it."

Last year, the timing was just perfect. "Instead of just planning and planning, I jumped into it. My teachers—chef Gene, chef Gino Gonzalez and chef Jeanjoe de Guzman—were very understanding."

Plus, the classes fit snugly with her schedule as part-time TV host and I-ball date-mom. "My classes are in the evening, so I can still attend to other things prior to school."

She admitted that hosting the EMA 7 women's show "Sa!" also, coincidentally, the Net 25 cooking show "Spoon" was instrumental in her decision to take up culinary arts.

Autopilot

"I love watching cooking shows," she said. "I savor whatever information I inquire in my own classes to be accurate and factual. I know I needed to be credible."

On "Spoon," she said, "I get to show off my newly learned skills. I enjoy doing the show because viewers get to see a different side of me and the guests as well."

"Sa," meche other hand, is almost on autopilot after eight years on the air.

The trick, she said, is keeping it fresh. "Try going with the times. We just have fun and people see the genuineness of the fun we have."

As a host, she explained, she tries "to keep her hosting style on 'Sa' different from that on 'Spoon.'"

Next stop for the TV host is a restaurateur. "(Dinner) Cielo and I have been talking about opening our own resto for years. I hope to put my new skills to good use. I'm excited and nervous. My biggest problem is turning my excitement because I want to do a lot of things."

E-mail: bayardsandiego@hotmail.com

Cowell reminds Boyle: You're not yet a winner

LOS ANGELES—EDITOR: Cowell said on Friday he was overwhelmed at his initial reaction to singing sensation Susan Boyle, but warned that she is not a winner yet. Cowell, the creator of, and a judge on, "Britain's Got Talent," said he was fed up with stories about the hunchback-turned-43-year-old Boyle. He urged her to focus on winning the TV talent competition. Reuters

MADONNA tops Forbes' list of Hollywood's hardest-working moms.

SIMON Cowell urges Susan Boyle to focus on the competition.

RIHANNA wants to get back jewelry seized as evidence by the police.

Uncertain future

LOS ANGELES—Fox Television this week faced an uncertain Golden Globes telecast, the two biggest stars on its No. 1 rated show "American Idol" openly discussed leaving, which experts said could send viewership plummeting. Paula Abdul, whose often quirky behavior has been a hot topic for years, told ABC News program "Nightline" that her contract ends after this season. And acid-tongued Simon Cowell, whom critics call the show's secret sauce, gave several interviews in which he contemplated an exit—after his deal ends next year.

Reuters

Hardest-working

NEW YORK—With earnings of $110 million in 2008, Madonna topped Forbes' list of Hollywood's hardest working mothers, followed by Reese Witherspoon and Gwyneth Paltrow. The pop singer and mother of three, who was recently turned down in her bid to adopt a second child from Malawi, grossed $105 million on her tour and sold nearly a million albums in the United States. Madonna also signed several lucrative endorsement deals last year, according to Forbes.com.

Reuters

Undisclosed illness

LOS ANGELES—Jay Leno was released from a hospital on Friday, one day after checking in with an undisclosed illness that forced the comedian to cancel a taping of "The Tonight Show" for the first time in 17 years as host. Spokesperson Dick Cosgrove said Leno was held overnight Thursday for observation. He did not disclose what ailed the comedian, but said it was not symptomatic of any major health problem.

Reuters

3-star tour

LOS ANGELES—Bob Dylan will be joined by Willie Nelson and John Mellencamp on a concert tour across major baseball parks this summer. Dylan's record label said on Friday. The 66-year-old singer starts with a July 2 show in Anaheim, Illinois, and ends August 15 in Stockton, California.

Reuters

McDreamy's dream

PARIS—Patrick Dempsey, star of "Grey's Anatomy," played a new role on Friday when he sampled the Ferrari's Le Mans motor racing circuit. Dempsey, "Dr. Shepherd" to the the long-running drama, drove a Ferrari F430GT on the Bugatti course, part of the famed French circuit, as he prepares for a possible fifth at the Le Mans 24 Hour Race.

Twitter winnings

WASHINGTON—Ashton Kutcher has pledged to donate $100,000 dollars for every 1 million new users he has with television network CNN to help fight the spread of malaria, the US Children's Fund said Friday.

Kutcher won the contest from CNN after the actor had drawn a challenge to the global network several weeks ago, arguing his Twitter social networking account would have a million followers before the measure held by CNN's breaking news feed. A week ago Friday, Kutcher—Twitter name @aplusk—reached the one million mark.

AFP

What Rihanna wants

LOS ANGELES—Rihanna (real name Robin Rihanna Fenty, 21) is seeking the return of $1.41 million in jewelry she was wearing the night she was allegedly beaten by Chris Brown. Donald Etra, an attorney for the "Umbrella" singer, filed a motion Tuesday asking that Los Angeles police and prosecutors return a pair of earrings and three rings, which were seized as evidence. The value of the items is at least $1.4 million, the motion states.

AP

MADONNA tops Forbes' list of Hollywood's hardest-working moms.

June 13 and 14.

"It's a dream for me to be here," said Bongiorno who has spoken out in motivational events in the United States.

AFP

ENTERTAINMENT

Tagaytay wedding for Judy Ann, Ryan

AN UNEMBARGABLE SOURCE told me that Judy Ann Santos and Ryan Agoncillo's highly anticipated wedding will finally take place May 2 in Tagaytay.

Gigie Alcasid and Agot Isidro will sing at the rites. Reception for 250 persons is set at Sonalle Backyard.

At Aliwan Aalis ng pinakayaman ng bansa, as somebody else sang before. Congrats, Judy Ann and Ryan. May you live happily ever after and continue to be such celebs's best!

Breaking up

Bingcheng Benitez has refused comment about the "breaking up" of his love team with Marian Rivera after "Sinbong Kasuyo" at Aliwan Theater.

Bong says, "Ok lords ang ir meeting even after 'Marimar.' But then we were still privileged to go on with few more shows. Our tandem has changed our lives and the lives of some people in many inspiring ways. It will truly be missed. But on the brighter side, our 'reunion' will be something to look forward to."

How will it affect their personal relationship?

"I get to stand to working with Marian three times a week. Nevertheless, I am confident that with our bonding, we still enjoy each other's company off screen."

Only three shows and our their relationship is subject to change until further notice.

Like the first time

Benjie Paras is enjoying fatherhood the third time around. "It feels like the first time all over again," says Benj. "Because my twin sons are grown up na."

His adorable 9-month-old baby boy Dean Filip is Benj's "mini-me."

The four-time MVP may no longer be in the PBA but he has a soft spot for the league.

"It's just sad that some players pretend to be PBAers and they dominate the PBA," Benj laments. "Di tuloy nabibigyan ng break ang deserving iPinoy players. Alvin Patrimonio and I tried to appeal at Senate about it but it was all in vain. It's sad to see good players who are not given a fair chance to shine."

Benj is truly an MVP—Most Valuable Pal—to his colleagues. What will it take to get the underexposed cagers out of the spotlight's "cage?"

'90s drama remake

Studio 23 brings you the edgy and contemporary remake of the hit youth '90s drama "Beverly Hills 90210"

TRANSFER E2

BENJIE with Dean Filip, "my mini-me."

Benjie Paras on having third child: 'Still feels like the first time'

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

SKIN & WEIGHT OVERHAUL
free STARTER PACKAGE
When you enroll from April 27 - May 2, 2009,
FREE BODY-FAT REDUCER PROGRAM
Fat Mobilization System treatment boosts metabolism and lets your body burn up to 7,000 calories. No surgery, diets or workouts.
FREE 5-IN-1 SKIN TREATMENT PROGRAM
Blue Sapphire erases acne, reduces fine lines, tightens sags and eliminates blemishes.
Be a brand new man! Don't miss this limited offer.
Call now for a FREE private consultation.
Call 813-7959
FOR MEN
marie france facial care
MAKATI · ORTIGAS · TOMAS MORATO · BINONDO · ALABANG · IMAW · CONGRESSIONAL · PAMPANGA · CEBU

BDO
BDO Rewards
Triple your SM shopping points!
Open a BDO savings account or increase your deposits from March to May 2009!
Earn TRIPLE points when you deposit and maintain a minimum of P100,000* in your savings/current account for at least one full calendar month.
Earn DOUBLE points if you deposit and maintain a minimum of P50,000*
Use your points to shop at SM Department Store, SM Supermarket, SM Hypermarket and SM affiliates.
Visit any BDO branch to know more about BDO Rewards!
We find ways

SM CINEMA

www.smcinema.com

SHOWING APRIL 30 AT THE
NEW DIGITAL CINEMA SM MEGAMALL

ALL TICKETHOLDERS OF THE MOVIE WILL HAVE THE CHANCE TO VISIT & TAKE PICTURES AT THE "XMEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE" PHOTO GALLERY ONLY AT SM CINEMA MANILA

METRO MANILA

RESERVED SEATS NOW AVAILABLE

PODIUM

DRAGONBALL: EVOLUTION | 17 AGAIN

LATE SCREENINGS

IMAX

MONSTERS VS ALIENS (3-D) | SEA MONSTERS (3-D)

X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (1-3)

COMING 1

DRAGONBALL: EVOLUTION

LUZON

OPENING ON MAY 1

OPENING ON MAY 15

VISAYAS • MINDANAO

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS NOW ACCEPTED IN ALL SM CINEMAS NEARNESS

CINEMA ACCESS: 395-5555

MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

ALL SCHEDULES EXPRESS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

1 FAST and FURIOUS 4
2 17 AGAIN
3 THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT
4 CRANK 2
5 T2
6 KNOWING
7 SUPER TYPHOON
8 SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE
9 DRAGONBALL EVOLUTION
10 BUMPA

ERMITA

1 KNOWING / DRAGONBALL EVOLUTION
2 17 AGAIN
3 THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT
4 FAST & FURIOUS 2
5 T3
6 SUPER TYPHOON
7 CRANK 2

METRO EAST

1 T2
2 SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE
3 MONSTERS vs. ALIENS
4 17 AGAIN
5 CRANK 2
6 FAST & FURIOUS 3
7 KNOWING
8 DRAGONBALL EVOLUTION

NOVALICHES

1 CRANK 2
2 17 AGAIN
3 THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT
4 T2

PIONEER

1 17 AGAIN
2 CRANK 2
3 T2
4 THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT

MOVIEWORLD
Starting APRIL 29,
our cinemas will
GUARANTEE a seat for you.

RESERVING YOUR SEAT

STA. ROSA

1 DRAGONBALL EVOLUTION
2 THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT
3 WOLFHOUND
4 T2

LIPA

1 KNOWING
2 SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE
3 T2
4 DRAGONBALL EVOLUTION

DASMARIÑAS

1 T2
2 THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT
3 WOLFHOUND
4 CRANK 2

IMUS

1 T2
2 CRANK 2
3 THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT
4 WOLFHOUND

ANGELES

1 THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT
2 T2
3 NEW IN TOWN
4 SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE

STARMILLS

1 THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT
2 T2
3 NEW IN TOWN
4 SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE
5 FAST & FURIOUS 4
6 WOLFHOUND

BACOLOD

1 FAST & FURIOUS 4
2 T2
3 STREETFIGHTER
4 SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE
5 NEW IN TOWN
6 DRAGONBALL EVOLUTION

ILOILO

1 FAST & FURIOUS 4
2 T2
3 SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE
4 NEW IN TOWN
5 THEY WAIT
6 DRAGONBALL EVOLUTION

WATCH IT LIVE via SATELLITE

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!

FREE CAUCE PROMO
for every ticket purchased

MOVIEWORLD

SUNDAY · MAY 3, 2009 · 8AM

Fil-Am joins 'Top Chef: Chicago'

"TOP CHEF: CHICAGO" returns with 16 hot new chefs ready to take to the kitchen every Wednesday at 10 p.m. on 22nd Avenue.

Among them is 08 Am Dok Table, a Chicago resident who works in the town chef at New York resto Bar Boulud, and who wows tasters but also from an upcoming episode.

At stake for the winning chef is $100,000 in seed money to help open his own restaurant to be furnished by the cutlery of the Glad family of products, a footwear in Pearl & White magazine, a showcase in the annual Food & Wine Classic in Aspen, and a gourmet-dream vacation in the French Alps.

"GLOBE Trotter 13"

Tomorrow, "Making Tobagan with The Master Showman" leads the Filipino Fiesta, 1 p.m. at the Oil City Mall with guests Mark Herras, Rainier Castillo, Eric Bernal, Bea Cesar, JC Tiuseco, Bubuy Villa Media, Chef's BOD and High Airplanes.

On April 28, at 3 p.m., Bandoo and Mystery Makiney with the Band, Maureen Larrazabal and Goobi and Bella lead the Bangsaro Street Party on Espino Night at the Judge de Mesa in Entertain.

'Singing Bee' new season

Season 3 of "The Singing Bee" introduces a new round called "Pass Me With Mic." Their are also improvements in the game mechanics, especially on "The Final Countdown" round, where a team can still win P2 million after correctly guessing the lyrics of four of the seven songs to be played.

"The Singing Bee" airs Saturdays after Wowowin Primetyme Pinoy Revival" and Sundays after "Gene Bubble" on MBO-CBN.

Festival of stars

Gelo Network takes part in this year's Bangsa Festival in Zamboanga via a series of shows featuring its biggest stars starting today until April 30.

Today Marian Rivera and Dingdong Dantes join the Star parade at 3 p.m. before taking the cluster floor with the Abstract Dancers in the festivals of the Ninth Street Dancing Parade and Competition at 5:30 p.m.

Hospital drama

Studio 23 brings real-life hospital drama to television Mondays at 8 p.m., with back-to-back airings of the hit series "Grey's Anatomy" and "Private Practice."

"Grey's Anatomy" host Katherine Heigl shows herself into Derek (Patrick Dempsey) and Meredith's (Ellen Pompeo) wedding plans despite her intense testimonials. The series of her illness takes its toll on Alex (Justin Chambers), who focuses during surgery.

In "Private Practice," Addison (Kate Walsh) is having a difficult time dealing with her feelings for Dr. Noah (Josh Hopkins) while Violet (Amy Brenneman) gets jealous when she finds out that Pete (Tim Daly) is going out with a single mom.

Urbanized paths

Travelers seek beyond the usual tourist destinations on "Globe Trotter 13" every Friday at 10 p.m. on Discovery Travel and Living.

Items trying to land roots in a Hollywood movie exits to exploring the slave trade in the Caribbean, these hosts take viewers off the beaten paths to interact with locals in exotic locations.

New animation series

"Delmo Whiskers," a half-hour episode animation series based on the popular greeting line by American Greetings, will premiere on Disney Channel on May 8 at 5:30 p.m.

It features a cast of endearing and bizarre dogs, cats, puppies and kittens that will be seen interacting in typical pet situations that become "normal" as they get into funny and unexpected adventures.

'Prinsipe Sabong' wins in US fest

"PRINSIPE SABONG," A FILM ABOUT cockfighting and cultural diversity, won on April 26 the Reed Award for Best Screenplay at the 42nd WorldFest-Houston Independent International Film Festival in the United States.

The movie stars Gardo Versoza as Joey Severon, an actor who is passionate about cockfighting. When his best gamecock loses to its opponent known only as "Prinsipe Sabong," Joey becomes obsessed with Prinsipe Sabong and its whereabouts.

He quits showbiz and returns to his hometown due to rumors that it was there that Prinsipe Sabong was bred. Upon his return, Joey discovers that his father had adopted four kids. Joey hates the idea. Further complicating the situation is the presence of Celina—girlfriend of his brother Jeffrey—whom Joey falls in love with.

The movie also features Rayo Jarome as Celine Monteverger and Allan Paule as Jeffrey Severon.

It was produced and written by Annie C. Fernandez and directed by Sing Galzado.

Tagaytay wedding...

Kapuso's P1

every Thursday at 8 p.m. her life through the eyes of Annie Wilson (Shaina Grimes) and her adopted brother Simon (Tristan Wilds) as their family moves into Beverly Hills just to keep an eye on their feisty grandson (Jessica Harker).

Original cast members Jeanette Garcia, Shamaya Dabney and Tori Spelling appear in recurring roles. The Kabarkada network's daily TFCnet friendly.

E-mail entertainment@abanggi.com

Rock trio releases debut CD

ROOTS OF NATURE IS A REGGE trio composed of Jerry Balitaan (guitars, vocals), Jeff Escoto (bass) and Mark Estrella (percussions) who all hail from Bulacan.

Discovered six years ago while playing in Club Jewel Eastwood, the band earned a reputation for being an exciting live act.

The bayanan ailmamad this recently at the launch of the band's self-titled debut CD (Sony Music). Roots of Nature's appeal lies in its ability to sound like a powerhouse group while using mostly acoustic instruments.

The album, produced by The Youth's Robert Jones, has 13 tracks led by "Lipad," one of two versions (the other by Leo Sabogal) from the "Dayo" soundtrack.

Silent Sanctuary's 3rd

Silent Sanctuary is another rock band that catches one's attention because its members (which a sibler (Angie Sancay) and a violinist (Chino David). With Jackie Sancayo (vocals, guitars), Darko Legaspi (bass) and Allen Cabato and James Perdon (drums), Silent Sanctuary's distinct sound has produced the singles "Ellipsis of the Mind" (2004), "Feeding Big Dog" (2005), and the latest, "Malakas Ka Ganiyan" (Universal), release under digits b "Hay Nako."

U2's 12th studio album

U2's 12th studio album, "No Line on the Horizon" (MCA Music), has Brian Eno, Daniel Lanois and Steve Lillywhite sharing credits as producers. All three have been responsible for guiding the band's records since its early days. Eno and Lanois started working with the Irish quartet in the "Unforgettable Fire" album.

The result go on in "The Joshua Tree," "Achtung Baby" "All That You Can't Leave Behind" and "How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb."

Lillywhite produced the first three U2 albums, "Boy," "October" and "War" for "No Line on the Horizon," Eno and Lanois were re-

ROOTS of Nature

cently allowed to be involved in the band's songwriting process, which took them to Morocco, Dublin, New York and London. The 11-track album has received positive reviews and debuted at No. 1 in 30 countries.

All-girl group

Dazzer is no longer just an ordinary piece of clothing worn at home by Filipino women—it has also become the name of a new local all-girl group. Three of its members are also shredded with other bands: bassist Myrene Academia Dardarich, Rizgin; vocalist Karen Puerollano (formerly of Sinibol and guitarist/vocalist Rik Gloria-Daniel (Cueshe). Drummer Shiella Bautista completes the lineup. Dazzer's debut single "Touch-A-Boodle Family" (Sony Music) features the single "Touch-A-Boodle Family."

Producers are Raimund Marasigan, Buddy Zabala and Lemuel de Abyna.

Keane Andrea's debut

"Peony Girl" contestant and University of the Philippines student Keane Andrea has recorded her self-titled debut album with artist-writers Jun-ame producing and writing several songs.

Prior to this, Andrea awarded "Ang Ilog-Ilog Ko" from the soundtrack of the GMA 7 telenovye "Codename: Asero."

SPIN

RAYVER Cruz

CHARICE Pempengco

GABBY Concepcion

Gabby, Rayver, Charice: Updates on prospects

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN GABBY CONCEPCION'S career augur well for the actor's stellar prospects. Aside from acting, he's giving singing a go with the release of his first album and guest roles in scenarios here and abroad. He does well enough as a crooner—but he still shouldn't quit his day job.

The best news is that Gabby is finally making his movie comeback, in a Star Cinema drama mugged by Laurice Guillen (who is making her own comeback to film work, four years after her "Sana Sumiin").

How will Gabby fare in his comeback vehicle? Our hunch is that he'll turn in a sensible characterization, especially under Laurice's mastership. Recently, we saw him turn in a good guest performance on TV, and that was pretty reassuring, as well.

Missing Gabby's prospects emotionally, however, we must note that it's unlikely for actors his age to make a major comeback on the local scene, unless it's a movie or a stint. If Gabby stores with his cemetbeck movie, he would power on and other naysayers wrong.

Our next update is on Rayver Cruz's career prospects. We've various positive pieces on him in the past, but recent developments make us wonder if he really has what it takes to emerge as a major young star of substance and worth.

We've praised Rayver for his exceptional dancing prowess, but it's now more obvious that he has to work harder on his acting talent which, as his assignments have increased in importance, seems all as sadly deficient.

On his first big film, "You Changed My Life," Rayver didn't make much of an impression, having barely much played himself and his role were in the film's production. On "Why Binakit Pa," where he's a regular player, Rayver came in the same un-thanks performances, as he doesn't do acoustically well, either.

Rayver had better get his act together fast, because he's slated to make another movie soon, this time as Sandy Garcia-Andal's leading man. That's a big break for Rayver, but he won't do justice to it if he just does his usual cute, drawing dumb.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

In should realize that notable characterizations are not achieved by an actor playing himself. He should get a good acting coach to teach some acting somewhere in his head.

We're still sending for Rayver, but as he moves up to the TV-film world, he should understand that much more is being asked of him. And, he'd better deliver, because big breaks, if poorly availed of, have the nasty habit of leaving insufficient talents' careers badly bruised—and broken.

Our final update is on Jon-Jon's latest, Charice, who regularly flies out of the country for big-deal singing stints abroad. We've written about the repetitive aspects of Charice's live singing specialty, turning off some of her fans in the process. That time, however, we note a positive development in her international career, specifically the debut album that she's currently working on.

As we've learned from reported, many of the cuts in her first album are out of the first installment, the lineup is projecting her as a young singer, not as a prevocious clone of the shrill, belting likes of Sheaniton, Carey and Dion.

Now, that's more like it. We're glad that Charice's handlers ahead find the way on do, that a young singer should sound young and not be forced to ruin her singing instrument with artificially high notes and relentless "power" singing.

Sure, Charice attracted international attention with her belt'belting, but she should graduate to more age-appropriate and artistically superior styles—sooooon!

The Taking of Pelham 123

In his latest venture "The Taking of Pelham 123," John Travolta plays the leader of a high level-ranked gang of four who threatens to execute a subway train's passengers unless a big ransom is paid—in one hour. You don't get easier than that!

The heart-stopping action-thriller also stars Denzel Washington as the good guy caught in the gunshot subway "ordinary" day in downtown chaos by the audacious hijacking of a subway train.

LEARNING
Educ Chefs Board Formosa

Facing the board: How to get ready for CPA exams / G3
War in the terraces: WWII Stories contest winner / G4

What I've Learned

Democracy and equality begin at home

Jacqueline Aquino Siapno
East Timor's 'Warrior Rice Lady'

SOMEONE ONCE ASKED MORIHEI Ueshiba Sensei, founder of the Aikido Martial Arts and Philosophy of Peace, "What is Aikido?" He replied: "When I move, that's Aikido." I never truly understood what he meant until I read the bozoness's coverage of my bus and tricycle rides.

As a practitioner of Aikido for two years now, I have learned that choosing a spiritual path of fearlessness and freedom, searching for truth(s), opening and listening to one's heart, and having inner peace and inner strength are more important than external pressures and preoccupations with power and status symbols.

Benedict Anderson once wrote paradoxically that "the quest for power can mean its loss, the selfish need East power, its acquisition."

Different path

I've learned that success and personal happiness are two different things. Like Gloria de Manila University President Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, I've learned that there are differences in one's role, job and chosen "path." Being a "professor" and an "Intelan Hyn Lady" are just roles.

In my early 30s, my family in Dagupan encouraged me to get into politics. I decided to take a different path—a scholarly and spiritual path—because I strongly believe we need a radical transformation of politics in this country. Positions are not something to be "inherited" through political dynasties. Politics has to be more truly participatory, just and egalitarian.

I chose a scholarly path because I thought it was also very important to contribute ideas about what women's roles, positions and jobs should and could be (besides and beyond the traditional ones). There are so many varied, artistic and creative ways we can contribute toward improving our human conditions (through music or art, for example). Politics is only one path among many.

As an educator

In my work as co-founder (with Dr. Hendrik Sangkoyo) of the School of Democratic Economics in East Timor, we go to rural villages and learn the villagers' concepts and ideas about human rights; social security; political economy; environmental problems; resilience and vulnerability; instead of relying on experts who often marginalize local knowledge, we do political and economic mapping and analysis.

From Antonio Gramsci, I learned that the university is not the only knowledge producer. So much new knowledge in East Timor was produced in prisons, in demonstrations, in resistance struggles in mountains, remote villages and "non-state spaces" and the apologist Sally Ann Wen, gave me the following advice that is full of wisdom:

"You are in a very complicated position in the power structure, one in which you cannot clearly perceive the consequences your actions may have. All I can say at the moment is, you are probably doing a great deal more good than you realize. People won't let you know it directly, but your brilliance on them is much more powerful than you may expect...

> So much new knowledge in East Timor was produced in prisons, in demonstrations, in resistance struggles in mountains, remote villages and 'non-state spaces'

"However, it also seems clear that you will never have the power that you need to do the right thing—that is very frustrating and humiliating. You have to start right at the limits of your power every day—that is very hard to live with. Most people never have to do that or very rarely. It is hard to accept that what you have the power to do. It is very hard in witness, in so close a range, lost opportunities and acts of wrong doing that you are powerless to change."

I've learned that there is a huge gap between political ideations and everyday political reality and practice (which can be very dirty and disillusioning). As an "insider," I am privy to many things in the hidden culture of state and government that are not accessible to many.

For one, I've learned that democracy and gender equality start at home. If we can't have them in our homes, then there is no way we can have democracy and equality in our nation because homes and families are a nation's smallest unit.

As a parent

I've learned that it is true: Children are the best teachers of life's most profound spiritual lessons. My son and other children I've loved and worked with are my most challenging teachers. Being a mother is, without a doubt, the most difficult job I have ever undertaken in my life.

My husband Fernando often jokes: "It's funny that I can give orders to our political party and oversee entire country and people listen...but I can't seem to discipline one son."

Being a parent whose family is in politics, I've also learned to be quite fierce about protecting our privacy/family space, ensuring that we have moments and rituals every day where we can share and express our love for one another as a family, and also making sure that my child has a fairly "normal," happy and peaceful childhood, away from all the pressures of performing in state pageantry.

As an immigrant

My grandfather once told me: "A tree is strongest if it's roots dig deep into the ground. So it is with people."

I was very fortunate to have grown up in a household in Diliman (Quezon City), Dagupan City, with my great grandparents, who were unconditionally loving and generous to me. It is the love for my great-grandparents and their ideals and values that has sustained me through many conflicts, disillusionments and struggles in my life.

Because I had such a positive and loving "building and care-giving environment" that included not just my immediate family in Diliman but also my community and school in Dagupan City—until the last Dagupanon speaking consistently—I have been able to withstand some pretty strong storms in this life.

I've learned that it doesn't matter where you are or what you are doing... as long as your heart is in it, you can be "at home in the world."

Dr. Jacqueline "Joy" Aquino-Siapno, besides being married to East Timor's National Parliament President Fernando de Araujo and serving as interim Vice Lady, teaches Philosophy, Political Theory and Political Economy at the Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e. She is also a visiting professor in the Department of Philosophy, De Paul, University Asuncion I, Spain. Her writings about East Timor and Aceh usually reflect on the relationship between citizenship and social-political activism.

Trends may come and go, but great education will never go out of style.

Text-based review for
UP, ATENEO, LA SALLE
and other colleges
AHEAD
0% interest
3 months to pay

Unbelievable Offer!
Sun Plan 350
Double Deal!

Plan 350* with FREE Samsung M120 camera phone.
• 24/7 Call & Text Unlimited**
• FREE 250 texts to other networks
PLUS
Sun EasyLine

Get a 2nd FREE Samsung M120 camera phone.
Just pay ₱1,000*** for 3 months worth of 24/7 Call & Text Unlimited**.
Handset Features:
VGA camera • FM radio/music player • GPRS
Hurry to The Sun Shop now!
Hotline: 385-0000 • www.sunonline.com.ph
sun CELLULAR
Now smart, Now value.

Playgrounds for the MIND

Member Schools

CHEd grants UM mature teaching school status

THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED), through its Institutional Quality Assurance through Monitoring and Evaluation (IQuAME), has granted the University of Mindanao (UM) a Category A(3) status or a mature teaching institution status. With CMO 49 series of 2008, UM will enjoy the classification from the agency for the next six years. UM is the first academic institution in the Davao Region to receive such recognition.

Dr. Guillermo P. Torres, UM president and chair, said that "this is an affirmation of UM's passion for excellent yet affordable education". He added that "quality education must not be expensive and UM has done so much to prove that based on its several recognitions and quality certifications from different institutions". Dr. Torres is also grateful to its administration staff, faculty members, alumni and partner industries for all their effort and support in getting the IQuAME certification.

IQuAME is the CHED's mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the outcomes of the programs, processes and services of higher education institutions in the country. The monitoring and evaluation framework has five key areas within which judgment is made about the performance of the institutions, namely: governance and management; quality of teaching and research; support for students; relations with the community and management of resources. Based on the result of the 5 areas, an institution can be classified as: mature institution undertaking both teaching and research (Category A(3)); mature teaching institution (Category A(2)); developing institution (Category B); and, other institutions (Category C).

The University of Mindanao was also cited for its consistent top performance in various licensure examinations, higher employability rates, strong linkages program, the ability to qualify for research, physical development and scholarship for its faculty and students, and sustainable community outreach projects. Further, it was lauded for its number of academic programs granted Center of Development by CHED, and those programs that were granted various accreditations by the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (Pacucoa). The Department of Labor and Employment has recognized its Public Employment Service Office (Peso) as the country's Best Peso.

SITEL, SAN BEDA TO TRAIN FUTURE CALL CENTER PROFESSIONALS

Sitel Philippines, a global Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) leader, and San Beda College recently recognized its first batch of successful graduates of call center training under the Sitel Academic Partnership Program (SAPP). Offered as an elective, the training produced 78 graduates on its first run. It is designed to bridge the skills gap between graduates and the necessary technical training. SAPP guarantees more efficient recruitment controls to meet the growing demand in the business process outsourcing (BPO) industry. Shown (from left): Sitel Philippines Country HR Director Noel Bolinao; San Beda College Dean of College of Arts and Sciences Fr. Ernesto Maculasian, Sitel Philippines chief operating officer Tim Hardie and SAPP graduate John Tolosa.

TIP JOINS SAP GLOBAL UNIVERSITY ALLIANCES PROGRAM

The SAP University Alliances Program promotes scientific and technical education in institutions of tertiary institutions by providing students and lecturers around the world with access to SAP software training. The SAP training courses lead to student certifications and eventual hiring by SAP, as well as SAP partners and customers around the globe. From left: Crispian Tan, regional director for University Alliances Program, SAP Asia Pacific and Japan; Jeanne M. Lagarde, country manager, SAP Philippines; Ronnel C. Castillo, TIP vice president for quality management and planning; Cynthia C. Llanes, TIP vice president for academic affairs; Severino F. Pedro, TIPSC vice president for administration, student services and linkages; Felano Yongsiriwit, managing director, SAP Philippines Inc.

LYCEUM FACULTY MEMBERS FINISH MASTERS

Twenty-five faculty members of Lyceum of the Philippines University's College of Nursing finished their Master in Nursing courses, in connection with Silliman University, Dumaguete. This achievement is made possible through a nursing extension hiring offered by Lyceum-Batangas. Seated fourth from left is the dean of the College of Nursing in Lyceum-Batangas, Mrs. Cecilia Pring.

UERMMMCI'S MEDICINE GRAD TOPS PHYSICIAN LICENSURE EXAM

The University of the Last Famous Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center Inc. (UERMMMCI) recently honored Dr. College of Medicine's 2004 February Physician Licensure Examination valedictorian and 5th placer Dr. Ceo L. Pasilis, with ex-thanksgiving celebration held at the (UERMMMCI) quadrangle. Dr. Pasilis, UERMMMCI's College of Medicine 2007 class valedictorian, landed 1,067 successful examinees, obtaining an 81.25 percent rating. Dr. Pasilis, UERMMMCI's College of Medicine 2007 class valedictorian, earned his top highest grade with 86.25 percent rating. In photo, second, from left are UERMMMCI officers Imelda Roman-Magsaysay, Jr., president Ronnie Dimagmaliw, Dr. Pasilis, vice chair Alfonso T. Yuchengco and Dr. Pedro Nillo Bain are other UERMMMCI successful examinees and Pacific Pedro's classmates Drs. Celso Ang, Jr., Kenneth Ryan Marcos, Angelica Victoria R. Peralta, Dennison A. Valdez, Angelo S. Montes Jr., Leslie B. Torre, Alejandro Marvin N. Quintanilla, Jumpsten R. Mendiola, Dennis Jacobe L. Lallen, Andrew F. Marquez, Romano C. Binsangan, Alvin A. Lorenzo, Andrew C. Ruiz, Kenneth D. Salamat and Ace Lennard Mendoza. College of Medicine 2007 class valedictorian, earned his top highest grade with 86.25 percent rating. In photo, second, from left are UERMMMCI medical physician and the orthodontist's spouse Clara Paymaster D. Salamat. For more details, please call (02) 8988-0742 local 64 Aurora Blvd. cor. Boundary Ave., Brgy. Doña Imelda, Quezon City, tel. no. 715-0861 or log on to www.uerm.edu.ph.

DLSU first to offer information infrastructure education in the Philippines.

STARTING THIS YEAR, JUNIOR AND SENIOR NETWORK ENGINEERING students from the De La Salle University College of Computer Studies are learning the basics of information infrastructure technology through the DLSU Academic Alliance program, a global education initiative developed by ISMC. The world leader in information infrastructure, DLSU is joining the ISMC Academic Alliance program in the country in addressing the growing need for IT professionals possessing broad skills in information infrastructure.

IESE professor visits UA&P, lectures on CRM

IESE BUSINESS SCHOOL PROFESSOR LLUIS RUBIO DELIVERED A lecture on creating effective customer relationship management (CRM) strategies at the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) last March 20. Professor Rubio is an assistant professor at IESE's department of marketing, where he teaches courses on marketing management, marketing basics in multinational marketing, marketing and the Internet, and CRM. Spain-based IESE is constantly ranked among the best MBA schools in the world. Rubio explained the importance of having clear core values in developing customer relationship management (CRM) strategies. He said that one of the greatest mistakes companies most often make immediately "buying a computer program" that supposedly facilitates implementing CRM strategies. He compared it to building the house's roof without first laying the foundation. Rather companies must first define their "mission, values, and culture," coming up with core ideas on which to base CRM efforts. Many such efforts failed due to companies' lack of self-knowledge, he said. The professor also said that "genuine, sincere relationship" was among the key success factors of all CRM efforts.

Lyceum Batangas reaps recognition in business education

LYCEUM OF THE PHILIPPINES UNIVERSITY IN BATANGAS HAS earned more laurels as the College of Business Administration received three commendations during the recent conferment ceremonies of the 2005 founding year and 18th annual general assembly of the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities - Commission on Accreditation (Pacucoa). Lyceum was awarded for having the first Accountancy program to be granted Level III re-accredited status across the entire Philippines. Dr. Ponda Bisarra, Pacucoa chair, conferred the award that further bolsters the quality accountancy education being offered by Lyceum. Simultaneously, Lyceum earned the Level III re-accredited status for its Business Administration program, while the CHMSE Certificate Receivers Licensure Examination. Lyceum had an exemplary passing performance, making it the Top Performing School - First Placer - all over the Philippines, a recognition presented by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and Board for Customs Brokers.

Miriam College's Women and Gender Institute offers summer courses

THE WOMEN AND GENDER INSTITUTE (WAGI) OF MIRIAM COLLEGE IS inviting everyone to enroll in any of its summer courses. Certificate Course on Gender Fair Education, April 21 to May 1. Course fee is P5,000. International Summer Institute on Gender Equity Summer Course, April 28 to May 9. Institute fee is P1,500 for Filipino participants and US$400 for international participants. Summer Institute on Migration, May 11 to 16. Registration fee is P1,000 for Filipino participants and US$400 for international participants. All course fees are inclusive of training materials, lunch, snacks, exposure trips, and certificates of participation. For more information, call 929-8700 (L-305, loc. 3500; 435-6029 or e-mail womensinstitute.edu.ph or wagi@mc.edu.ph.

Adamson launches refereed journal

THE CENTER FOR GUIDANCE, COUNSELING, TESTING, AND PLACEMENT (the center of Adamson University) has launched its refereed journal called "The Helping Professional, with its first issue released last March 2008. The Helping Professional was conceptualized to respond to the evolving challenges faced by workers in the field of guidance services. Published annually, it accepts contributions for empirical articles, book reviews and position papers throughout the year. The topics covered in the journal range from developmental and training programs for students and professionals, using all advanced, and cutting-edge technologies in Filipino and English languages. Dr. Claude C. Pelpa is the editor-in-chief of the journal while Dr. Angelina S. Miranda serves as associate editor. Contributors can inquire about publication requirements or submit their articles to the editor at the center's office or call (02)524-2011 local 207.

Cadet corps honors O.B. Montessori founder with testimonial parade

"PRESENT ARM," BARKS PAGSANJAN'S Colonel Jeff Del Rosario (at left) to the attention call. This command reverberated throughout the square chambers of the Mario Montessori Hall, signaling the start of what would probably be one of the more impressive displays of snap and precision the cadet corps of O.B. Montessori Center had ever shown. The battalion size cadet corps of 150 rendered a testimonial parade in honor of the founder of the O.B. Montessori Schools, ambassador Precious S. Brown. The event, held last Feb. 28, was also CAT graduation ceremonies of the CAT Muralo Class of 2009.

Previous to this, the audience was treated to an impressive array of beautiful music and choreography from the O.B. Montessori Marching Band under the tutelage of Antonio Abiche, Ramon Cirineo and Allan Gimbal. Leading the guests were PNP Generals Eliseo de la Paz, German Doronila and Jesus Versoza. Also in the VIP table were among the raiders Lt. Col Adonis Bajao was the lone proud parent representative from the Philippine Army.

This set the tone for the morning parade and review with the carriages of the Muralo Class of 2009, under the command of Colonel Amos Robert Go '02. The cadets, smartly resplendent in their Khaki Polar in spired, white and grey uniforms, filling up the hall with their precision movements reminiscent of western stop a cavalry dash," as one maverick parent would describe.

EUREKA! *Queenie N. Lee-Chua*

Dragons, hearts and spells in ink

BE "SWEPPELL," MEL THE Beatlemania, tells his daughter. "Stories never really end," Meggie says, even if the books like to pretend they do. Stories always go on. They don't end on the last page, any more than they begin on the first page."

This reverence for books is what makes Cornelia Funke's "Inkheart" trilogy much more than the usual fantasy tale. When he reads aloud, Mo has a terrible power—he can bring the characters to life. When Meggie was only a baby, Mo read to well that many evil characters came out of the book "Inkheart" into our world, while Meggie's mother disappeared into the book!

Of course, Mo had great words. Funke, with father and daughter as targets, and the advent of years, "Inkheart" now becomes not just Funke's book, but a book-within-a-book—Meggie, yes, but extremely engrossing. It was made into a movie starring Brendan Fraser last year.

Writing is more fun

German-born Funke was a social worker, teaching children "to build bridges and not to be soldiers." But she yearned to do more, and started doing pictures for stories sent by editors. She soon grew bored with these stories, so at the age of 33, she decided to write her own.

"I discovered that telling the stories was even more fun than drawing the pictures," she said in her web site www.corneliafunke.de, "as I became a full-time storyteller and writer and now I am completely happy." Time Magazine named her one of the 100 most influential People of the World in 2005.

When my son Jiarri was seven years old, he became hooked on "Dragon Rider," one of Funke's first books. He had long dreamed of flying over the earth on a dragon, just as the Icelandic girl Snorri and the Roman boy Ben learned after Funke's soul did on the back of the young dragon Firedrake, in their quest to find the mythical home of all dragons. Up in trees, Sorry editors all sons of dragons, and he was thrilled to know that Funke did the same ("stuffed dragons, paper dragons, china dragons, small ones, big ones, green ones, red ones").

"Dragon Rider" is filled with mysterious but lovable creatures, not as menacing as those in Harry Potter, he assures. In short, they are perfect for children.

"I wanted to draw dragons and all the strange creatures that live with them," Funke said. "My study still smells of the nasty mushrooms brought in by children who know how much horrid likes to eat them. And then there is Twigling, the monkey. Of all the creatures I invented he is still one of my favorites. And I had so much fun drawing the sea serpent."

"Dragon Rider" was a turning point for Funke. Before that she had tried short children's tales, but after "Dragon Rider," she wrote "Thicker books". "I learned that longer stories quickly gain a life of their own and that they were not to be in much of an adventure for the writer as they are for the reader."

This is obvious in Funke's open triad: "Inkheart", "Inkspell", and "Inkdeath". Due to the complexity of the stories, they are best read in proper order.

Funke is never condescending to her young readers (usually 10-14, though many adults and teens I know love the stories). Unlike many adventure stories that are purely plot-driven, Funke's trilogy painstakingly evoke the heart and emotions of not just Meggie, but also their book collector aunt and the other characters.

Funke is a voracious reader—from Shakespeare to T. H. White's "Once and Future King" (which she wishes she could have written). Literary references abound in her books, such as "the hairy-footed people's quest" in "Inkheart" that points to the hobbits' mission in "Lord of the Rings."

Quotes from others

Every chapter starts with quotes from other works, appropriate for the topic at hand. For example, in "Wheels Made to Measure," the first chapter of "Inkspell," Funke quotes from award-winning author Margaret Atwood's "Orpheus 2": "He has been trying to sing, Lotte says. He has tried many times. And he has failed." Seldom has a children's work been so literarily satisfying for me.

"Inkdeath," the third book, is darker than the first two, with more death and pain. I would have wanted a more light-hearted tone, but Funke believes that the conclusion is "just right." (Funke's husband died of cancer while she was writing the last volume, which might have affected her storytelling.)

"There is a lot of evil in our world," said Funke, "and parents and teachers will be glad to know that good finally triumphs evil.

Funke is a fan of the Harrison series. So is the religious? "I think because he writes about other religious beliefs as ideas," she said. "They are not always as Christian as C.S. Lewis', but the beliefs of a writer on death and life, good and evil always also reflect his or her religious beliefs. And reader can't help but cast shadows over story or try to indiscriminate your readers. That is disrespectful and will cripple your interpretings."

What endears Funke to me most is her ability to be a good mother. She writes daily from 10 a.m. until her son Jiarri comes home from school to the afternoon, when she becomes "a mother, not a writer." She wants to share her children (including daughter Anna) that much as she loves writing, she "loves them even more."

Her love for kids and family shines in her works, and children all over the world know this. They continue to send her "treasures"—stuffed dragons, whimsical cartoons, good manuscripts.

In a world filled with cynicism and despair, Funke's books shine bright.

The "Inkheart" trilogy is available at Scholastic Book Store, tel. 7216714, e-mail ask.cnse@scholastic.com.ph. Visit www.corneliafunke.de.

E-mail Queenie N. Lee-Chua at bluebook@yahoo.com.

The ABCs of taking CPA exams

WITH THE CERTIFIED PUBLIC Accountant (CPA) national licensure examination just right around the corner, it is very important to prepare the best way you can. Boards of these tests can define your career. Doing well in the CPA examination means entry into the exact prestigious accounting firms have set shrined.

Most of the passengers' outlines of Investigation & Audit is (P&A) were topnotchers in the May 2008 CPA examinations: Christopher Ryan Tee (10th), Ameron Camille Ena (9th), Cynthia Bryan Tan (10th) and Raymund Princess Rueda (2nd).

Some their reflect tested and tested methods that they themselves adopted for handling the last few days before the exams.

Days before the exams

Prepare yourself physically. A weary body means a weary mind, causing you overall performance to dip. After losing as much sleep during the review, spend the final days resting your body clock. Get enough food and rest so you will be in excellent fighting form.

Don't cram. Your performance depends on how good a student you were, not on how much cramming you do before the exam. Instead of cramming, go over a methodical, broad-spectrum checklist that covers everything you have taken up.

Don't listen to rumors about exam content, regardless of source. Many rumors spread before an exam about what topics will be covered. These are usually unsubstantiated and may cause panic and confusion.

Keep your goal in mind. Your objective is to do well in a critical exam. Keep your mind clear of distractions and other concerns, and focus on maximizing an accounting-centered mindset. Keep away from things that normally get you excited of your attention, such as playing games or going out.

Conduct casual group study sessions. It is generally a good idea to spend time with friends who are also taking the exams on you can help each other review. Bring with people who are on the same boat can give you perspective and sense of security.

Be generous and help others study. Your friends may ask you to help them through certain topics. It is in your best interest to help them because in remembering them you also get your mind on the same track. One of the best ways to review is to teach others.

Stay with people closest to you. While it is a good idea to keep away from distractions, stay close to family and best friends. These people are your support group, and can help keep your spirits up. Let them take care of you and share you on. Being around people who support and believe in you are do-wonders for your performance.

Be confident. Believe in yourself. It is natural to have doubts about your abilities, but self-doubt can bring you from doing your best. Think positively about yourself and your skills. You would not have reached this stage if you were not ready and properly educated.

Pray. Whatever your faith, prayer helps. It soothes the mind and relaxes the spirit, allowing you to be at peace.

Days of the exams

Triple-check your required items. When possible, bring two of everything.

Bring medications. Some days are the change in the body. Whether it is a bout with the flu, headache or severe tummy, you will have to get rid of it immediately so you can finish the exams.

Focus on what you know. In the testing centers, there will be people doing last minute reviewing, talking to themselves or their friends. You may panic a little if you hear things that do not line up with what you know and what you studied. Remind yourself that you have prepared the best way you can. Trust in your subconscious, and it will be your CPA review center.

Prepare well for, and do your best in, the first subject. Every endeavor benefits from a good start. By doing well in the first exam, your confidence gets a boost that will help get you through the rest of the exams.

Motivate yourself. Think positive thoughts. During the exams, there will be no one to cheer you on except yourself. Good luck!

School placement officers seek better graduate-job matching

SCHOOL PLACEMENT OFFICERS are linking up with industry members in Cebu province to help ensure that graduates are equipped for jobs in the market.

Orit J. Concepcion, president of the new Association of Placement Practitioners of Colleges and Universities (APPCU) and placement director of the ateneo de Manila University (ateMU), said the organization would help member schools coordinate with employers to address any mismatch in graduate competencies and industry requirements.

APPCU held its first industry networking session with the theme "Connecting with the Market Success," featuring vTelecom Global Solutions and Software Ventures Inc.

APPCU officers were also inducted. Ateneo de, chancellor of the University of the East-Manila campus and former member of the Professional Regulations Commission, presided at the oath-taking.

She said APCU could help prevent realistic job options and global career planning skills.

Jerry Jimenez, vTelecom Global Solutions' senior recruitment manager, talked about the campus nature of a call center career. vTelecom Global Solutions, which sponsored the event, is a leading provider of business process outsourcing (BPO) solutions.

Leonard Bruno, president of the Philippine Computer Society and vice president of Software Horizons International, stressed the importance of being in touch with innovations in software languages as well as developments in computing architectures. He agreed with the view that schools must align with the job market.

Other APPCU officers are Lena V. Catalan, Dr. la Salle College of Saint Benilde, vice president; Ma. Concha Gallardo Gonzales, University of the East, Manila, corresponding secretary; Claire Angeline B. Espino, Miriam College, recording secretary; Lucio Jemimo M. Ata, AdMU, treasurer; Leticia F. Ada Paz, University of Perpetual Help System DALTA, auditor; Ameron Rhodora J. Rosario, Far Eastern University FEU; Dr. Evelyn A. Sengco, University of Santo Tomas, and Iris T. See, St. Paul University Quezon City, directors.

Learn and work in two years

THE CEBU INSTITUTE for submission of application for MFI Technological Institute's two-year certificate programs is extended to May 16.

MFI TI (formerly Mandaue Foundation Institute) offers programs in automotive and mechatronics technology, industrial mechatronics technology, refrigeration and air conditioning technology, and network administration technology.

The courses are offered under the Dual Training System (DTS). Students spend their second year on-the-job training.

Applicants must be high school graduates, preferably below 21 years old. Other applicants will have to pass the pre-assessment of MFI TI.

MFI Foundation, Inc. offers training and education programs for the industry and agriculture.

The MFI Building is on Briges Avenue, Pasig City (tel. 6330158 to 62 local 421 and 511; e-mail mfiinfo@mfi.org.ph).

FOOTNOTES

Theater workshop for kids

THE FILIPINO BOB DAGE LIBRARY of the Theater Workshop for Kids on theatrical techniques and exercises through imaginative play and group acting games is now accepting. The first kiddy for children aged 8 -11 will be held 8 a.m. -12nn every Saturday in May beginning May 9 until the 30th. Facilitators are Moreo de Manila University graduates and actors Nicky Abad and Mikey Manansan. Workshop fee is P4,000 inclusive of handouts, materials, snacks, and a cat T-shirt. Reservation fee is P500. Deadline for reservations is May 4. The workshop will be held at the Gregorian Heritage Library on Shakadi Avenue, Ayala Triangle Shakadi Cebu City. For reservations call 0917 8811 801, 7661 8811 / 8886867, or e-mail hanongan.joshua@yahoo.com.

US-BASED PINOYS SPONSOR SPELLING BEE

The Tarlac Association of Southern California, Los Angeles county in USA sponsored the recent Division Spelling Bee in San Pablo City, Laguna. The Filipino association donated US$1,500 for the competition which was held in collaboration with the Department of Education San Pablo City and participated in by the seven district winners from grades 1 to 6. The San Pablo Central School Choir under Rhodora Ramirez led the singing of the National Anthem and the San Pablo March. Winners were: Grade 1, Hana Andrea Nisa P. Quinan, Andenge Elementary School; Grade 2, Chloe F. Tapacio, San Pablo Central School; Grade 3, Kristina Casandra C. Ramos, Sto. Angel Elementary School; Grade 4, Madelaah G. Hernaldo, Bagong Bayan Elementary School; Grade 5, Michael Anthony B. Bolbarez, Sto. Angel Elementary School; and Grade 6, Caren-Mae M. Batinica, San Antonio Elementary School.

THE PROFESSIONAL Review Network (PRN) has launched a comprehensive review program to help increase nursing graduates' chances of passing the licensure examination and make them more globally competitive. The program, approved by the Commission on Higher Education, involves critical thinking exercises and will be offered by PRN in Bacolod, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Legazpi and Manila. The first phase of the review ends May 31. The Board Final Coaching with Online Essentials will be held May 25-June 5. PRN Manila is at Unit 5 BG Cesa Bldg., G. Tolentino St., corner Espeña, Manila; tel. (02) 8308 7, 8308 41. In photo are (seated) Aaron "Cy" Uriadan, BM, LPT/RN, and PRN's Alice Bonanzoja, Dr. Ruben Sajor and professor Lori Lara. Behind the lectern is Teodoro Villanueva.

A boloman's tale: War in the terraces

By Doreen N. Salcedo

Editor's Note: The following is excerpted from the story that won third prize in the Pilar Pro Patria Veterans Book Award. Two Ateneo Grade 7 students helped research the book's stories so that readers like them will know about the heroism of their elders. Doreen Salcedo is a Grade 7 student at Ateneo High School.)

WHEN BATAAN was bombed on Dec. 8, 1941, Edward Cassel was just one of the many Filipinos in many areas working in Baguio Miners' Hospital.

Baguio—a place beyond one's recovery from the feared city. The destruction of Baguio signaled that the war had arrived at the doorstep of the Cordilleras and there was no avoiding it.

Cassel, together with his fellow workers, fled to their respective places of origin to defend their homes from those who would move to war. A young man of 23 then, Cassel went home to Hidalgyang, Bontoc, Mountain Province.

Hidalgyang was a remote place deep in the mountainous mountains of Bontoc. A barrio much feared today for its resemblance like no

terrace, its main source of livelihood was rice production.

When the Japanese soldiers arrived and occupied Central Bontoc, the people fled in search for refuge far into the mountains. The military proclamation transferred the headquarters to Sacasacan, Tinoc, Ifugao. The northernmost battle of Bontoc. Some platoons of Filipino soldiers were assigned to the different barrios of the town.

One group of soldiers stayed in Hidalgyang. When their supplies ran short, the soldiers moved out by the outskirts of the village who opened their storerooms and shared what they had. While other places were keeping a tight watch over their rice supply, people in Hidalgyang did not have to eat camote or soldiers had to hunt for food.

Point man

Message routers to the barangay were also established to ensure important communication went out delayed. Cassel was the point man in Hidalgyang. He and a man named Michael Fanyed were the official "routers."

"The letters were always delivered late or sometimes a day," says Cassel. They too all the hats to find a dog, Mount and Michael's and sent special messages to prevent communication to each fellow couriers.

The men in the different barrios came together and called themselves the bolomen. While the soldiers and guerrillas fought using guns, the bolomen used their

machetes. Cassel, aside from being a messenger, was designated leader of the bolomen in Hidalgyang.

Entrapment

One time, they sighted Japanese soldiers in Bulilig. They were unaware that the enemy patrolled in four bolomen—Parao-o, Alfonso Agang, Tolibas and Cassel—approached. The men offered to guide the Japanese to a ranch where they could get quality sweet potatoes. Unaware of their plan, the five soldiers went with the men. When they arrived in Tukotakgan, Cassel led the group to stop for a rest. Then, signaling for men in their midst, he told them to position themselves behind the soldiers, who were offering cigarettes to each other.

"Today was the last of us on the ranch of a Japanese soldier," Cassel relates. Then machetes raised. Using their bolos, the Hidalgyang men killed the soldiers. Three of the men received scratches on the soldiers' heads and bringing their loose arms together, as was the custom in those days. But Cassel escaped finely not having the dead.

The commanding officer might have ordered the execution of the five Japanese soldiers at nightfall because he sent another group to go after them. The grim news brought back by the soldiers after discovering the looted corpses made the Japanese official angry and prompted him to strike back at the people of Hidalgyang—the only supporters in the region.

After a week, some fifteen platoons of Japanese soldiers came to the village in full battle gear. The soldiers, ferociously headed by Cassel's men, tried long to locate their hideouts in vain. Nothing was found. The residents stayed Red to a security measure once raised false.

Torched

The Japanese opened fire at the village but were met with silence. Consequently, the Filipino soldiers camping in Hidalgyang were called to Tinoc as headquarters for an emergency meeting. Further enraged, the Japanese leader ordered his soldiers to torch down the rice houses and left not one structure was left standing. The Nabbi, the town granaries in Barrio were spared.

The sight of the flat burning their precious rice stalks made the villagers livid. They blamed the bolomen for provoking the Japanese. Cassel says it was only in Hidalgyang where the Japanese set fire to houses.

The Japanese hostility towards the villagers prompted the locals to go where the war was actively being fought on their own initiative. An able-bodied man and woman volunteered to deliver ammunition and food to the soldiers in the front.

Because of the shortage of good body to transport food, Filipino natives were tasked to supplies of bullets and food were delivered because roads were impassable. The Hidalgyang men and women traveled to the mountainsides of Sabangan, Bauko and Besao with their precious cargo.

When Cassel took his comrades, missionaries in helping during the war, he was to tell that the Japanese did not support their participation. In one time, Malaspanes came to Hidalgyang. They might have been intending for reminder but met gone. Cassel, with his trusted men Fanged, and another bolomen, Sagbadang, volunteered to lead the Japanese to their headquarters in Bontoc, Bontoc. When they reached the headquarters, the captain was called to the front office. The Japanese captain brought the guerrilla rebel Filipino interpreted the Japanese customers.

"Which would you like—the enemy or Filipino enemy?" asked the officials. Cassel, sensing that their loyalties were in question, quickly answered, "We want Japanese enemy." The response seemed satisfied. "Very good, very good." The three marched past with Japanese interpreted and a cup of cold milk.

In 1945, the Japanese were losing their ground in the Philippines. Alarmed by the Japanese in Sabangan, Mountain Province, were still able to make Colonel Horan and Captain Heinrich (Cassel) some significant aid to Japan's surrender. When the two Americans interviewed brought to Bontoc, the Japanese soldiers ordered the people to come and see the three who the delivered Horan and Heinrich. Cassel, with his bolomen and other villagers, went down to Bontoc. The soldiers, too, left their guns in Hidalgyang and went. The Japanese soldiers prevented Colonel Horan and Captain Heinrich to the public.

"Why are they afraid? Why surrender? Why not fight to the last breath?" Cassel asked himself when questions.

Liberation

On July 18, 1945, Bontoc was liberated. The Japanese troops took off towards Baguio to meet with their Boeing commander, General Yamashita. Cassel and the five bolomen, Parao-o, Alfonso Agang, Tolibas and Cassel—approached. The men offered to guide the Japanese to a ranch where they could get quality sweet potatoes. Unaware of their plan, the five soldiers went with the men. When they arrived in Tukotakgan, Cassel led the group to stop for a rest. Then, signaling for men in their midst, he told them to position themselves behind the soldiers, who were offering cigarettes to each other.

"Today was the last of us on the ranch of a Japanese soldier," Cassel relates. Then machetes raised. Using their bolos, the Hidalgyang men killed the soldiers. Three of the men received scratches on the soldiers' heads and bringing their loose arms together, as was the custom in those days. But Cassel escaped finely not having the dead.

The commanding officer might have ordered the execution of the five Japanese soldiers at nightfall because he sent another group to go after them. The grim news brought back by the soldiers after discovering the looted corpses made the Japanese official angry and prompted him to strike back at the people of Hidalgyang—the only supporters in the region.

After a week, some fifteen platoons of Japanese soldiers came to the village in full battle gear. The soldiers, ferociously headed by Cassel's men, tried long to locate their hideouts in vain. Nothing was found. The residents stayed Red to a security measure once raised false.

Torched

The Japanese opened fire at the village but were met with silence. Consequently, the Filipino soldiers camping in Hidalgyang were called to Tinoc as headquarters for an emergency meeting. Further enraged, the Japanese leader ordered his soldiers to torch down the rice houses and left not one structure was left standing. The Nabbi, the town granaries in Barrio were spared.

The sight of the flat burning their precious rice stalks made the villagers livid. They blamed the bolomen for provoking the Japanese. Cassel says it was only in Hidalgyang where the Japanese set fire to houses.

The Japanese hostility towards the villagers prompted the locals to go where the war was actively being fought on their own initiative. An able-bodied man and woman volunteered to deliver ammunition and food to the soldiers in the front.

Because of the shortage of good body to transport food, Filipino natives were tasked to supplies of bullets and food were delivered because roads were impassable. The Hidalgyang men and women traveled to the mountainsides of Sabangan, Bauko and Besao with their precious cargo.

FOR THE CHILDREN. Mayor Sonny Belmonte and Metrosynergy Dr. Veronica B. Lizaso during the launch of the SM Pre-Day Care to professionalize teaching and management in barangay day care centers

Daycare aides go to college

By Perla Aragon-Choudhury
Contributor

RICHI HOMBERIA, 27, a BS Education graduate of Rizal Technological University, worked in sales until he finally got a teaching job almost three years ago in a Quezon City daycare center.

For Homberia, as a trained teacher, it is a rarity among daycare workers. Many people do it together some job as not even regular employees but volunteers, the reason why Miriam College has launched a certificate course for daycare teachers.

Through SM Pre-Day Care, 100 teachers are learning how to mobilize young be productive in educational in the home, the school and the community after two years they are expected to have the knowledge and skills to open children's centers and development, especially with teachers in private preschools.

The launch was attended by Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr., Metrosynergy Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Hubert Bautista, city administrator Pagdilao Delos, social welfare officer Teresa Montano, parents, teachers and daycare preschoolers.

Belmonte, who helped build a daycare center in a congressman, said "we have seen that one purchase of educating children in their earliest years, and I am happy to invest in maintaining and strengthening our system for this. I'm glad that we're partnering with Miriam in a course, which builds on its enhanced knowledge in this area."

SM Pre-Day Care takes off from the success of Ganap Bukid, the educational approach of Miriam College that trained more than 200 teachers from 250 day care centers, benefiting more than 20,000 children in Quezon City, Pasig and Davao, Bicol.

Dr. Patricia Licuanan, Miriam president, said, the college was expanding and deepening what it had started. "Like you, Miriam is happy to this partnership which I hope will be relevant to all of us and give further meaning to our acknowledged duty of nourishing the youth and our future."

The program is supervised by the Instructional Network for Social Action (Insa) that manages Miriam's volunteer service group Like the Crowds, Organizing and Awareness Officer Gianni Lim, the student assistance that serves public and private schools alike, as well as local governments.

Insa's Gloria Lourdes Arvisu said the first group completed months of college undergraduates. They would be part of the region as substitute jobs and, after 12, could work for his before and mastered degrees.

Arvisu, who said Miriam wanted 250 more teachers, added that the program was to the best interest of children and community.

Miriam College will also help Quezon City create an integrated system for quality day care centers by enhancing curriculum, developing instructional materials, assessing community facilities, strengthening programs

Creating readers through storytelling

MANOLO "HOLLY" SILADAN, president of Aliguyon Storytellers Philippines, Inc., says love for reading must be nurtured so the younger possible age and nurtured until children become independent readers.

Aliguyon is a guild of enthusiasts storytellers that promotes love of reading among children through book-based storytelling.

Silaban organizes book-based storytelling in schools, libraries, and children's programs. But he says storytelling should not be limited. Children are to be taught to love books.

Aliguyon volunteers, he says, perform stories that they read.

As educators, Silaban has spearheaded many training programs for both teachers and students, using Aliguyon's style of storytelling that engages the audience through interactive techniques and the creative use of voice and gestures.

The storytelling has helped teachers translate into more expressive educators, while students become more articulate. The greatest benefit is the heightened level of interest in reading.

He says schools should provide programs and activities for children to enjoy classroom

MANOLO Silaban

learning. Aliguyon has made Reader's Theater by Teacher Created Materials an important tool to develop reading comprehension skills. He says the Teacher Created Materials line, particularly Reader's Theater, is practical and easy to use.

Reader's Theater, a flagship product of Teacher Created Materials, is an innovative and interactive program that builds skills in listening, writing, and speaking. Teacher Created Materials products are exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Rex Book Store International. Call 7402407, 7117300 and 7124301 local 105. For more information, visit www.rexinternational.com.

FIRE SAFETY ESSAY WRITING CONTEST
Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation (Shell) and the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) sponsored the recent Fire Prevention Month 2009 On the Spot Essay Writing Contest. Theme of the contest was "Fire Safety: A Challenge, A Concern, and Priority for Everybody." In photo are BFP Inspector Eva Mamaguilan, contest chair; Grade 9 recipients Nimrod Richard Miguel Villareal, third; Angela Maria Cuadal, Ramon Magsaysay High School, second; Florence Jane Zarbano, Valenzuela Senior High School, first; Mel-Cris Pilipinas Shell; and Sr. Supt. Bobby Barrete, BFP district fire marshal, Quezon City Fire Department.